



Home Care tips for the Winter

Winter is here and the brisk air outside means goodbye Fall! Before you sit back and enjoy the cooler weather, start your Christmas shopping and plan that big New Year's bash, remember that this is a good time to get outside and provide some important maintenance to your homes and property.

Before the weather grows colder, it's important to do some maintenance around your home's exterior to prevent costly damage later on. Below are preventative home maintenance tips that every homeowner should follow.

- 1. Check outdoor paint for peeling, cracking and coverage**
- 2. Inspect attic for insulation and leak stains**
- 3. Inspect weather-stripping, thresholds, transitions, and windows**
- 4. Inspect exterior trim, gutters, and downspouts**
- 5. Check storage and move temperature-sensitive material to warmer areas**
- 6. Drain outdoor faucets and winterize hoses and spigots**
- 7. Clean gutters**
- 8. Remove screens and install storm windows**
- 9. Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and change batteries if needed**
- 10. Tighten handrails and grab bars**

The tips offered are to help keep your home in good repair while the heat of Summer is on break. Homes react to seasonal changes in temperature and moisture levels; it's important that maintenance is done in order to avoid higher energy bills, or worse, damage to the home.

Tips courtesy of HandymanMatters.com.