

# Winter Weatherization Tips

The Commission on Common Ownership Communities wants you to be prepared this winter season. Follow these helpful tips to weatherize your home and prevent common issues that can result from winter weather.

## **HVAC Unit Maintenance**

Have a certified technician evaluate the state of your HVAC unit. Conducting routine maintenance on your HVAC unit this fall will all but guarantee it is in working order.

## **Reverse Your Ceiling Fans**

Homes with ceiling fans that have a reverse function can produce an updraft that transfers the heated air accumulating at the roof down throughout the living space. This trick is especially useful in exceedingly tall rooms and could even save you money on your heating bill.

## **Icicle Prevention**

Did the buildup of ice cause melt-water to back up and flow into your house? With the help of a home-energy auditor or weatherization contractor, homeowners can identify and fix problem areas to prevent ice buildup in or around your gutters.



## **Check the Roof**

Check the condition of your roof, since it is typically not something you see every day. Look for damaged, loose, or missing shingles that may leak during less than optimal weather, and fix them accordingly.

## **Properly Seal Windows & Doors**

Properly sealing your home is a given, but most homeowners don't realize how easy it is to do themselves. Be sure to seal any gaps. Silicone is best used for exterior jobs, as it is impervious to the elements, and shouldn't shrink. As for doors, simply check the weather stripping lining the doorjamb.

## **Clean the Rain Gutters**

A rain gutter system is used to divert excess water flow away from the house, and more importantly, its foundation. Neglecting to clean your gutters routinely can lead to severe problems. Water can back up against the house and damage roofing, siding, and wood trim. Clean leaves and debris from storm drain grates; and don't rake leaves into the storm drain inlets.

## **Turn Off Exterior Faucets**

Water in pipes can freeze when introduced to cold enough temperatures. The expansion of the frozen water is entirely capable of bursting any pipe and causing a huge problem in winter. Don't forget to disconnect all garden hoses and drain the water from all faucets, as well as your lawn irrigation system.



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive



Prince George's county  
Office of Community Relations

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