

System	Check
- Fire and smoke alarms	Change batteries, vacuum to remove dust, and test.
- Carbon monoxide alarms	Change batteries, and test.
- Roof and gutters	Monitor roofs for snow buildup and ice dams throughout the winter. Record problems for future corrective work.
- Gutters	Keep downspout leaders extended. Water draining during a melt tends to puddle where there is no snow. Make sure snow melt water does not come back against the foundation or basement windows.
- Exterior spigots	Make sure that the water supply that leads to your outside water spigots has been shut off to prevent frozen pipes.
- Sump pump	Test sump pump to make sure it removes water from the crotch.
- Steam boiler	Check water level. Remember to drain the sludge from the bottom of the boiler every two weeks or so.
- Electric heaters	Make sure that electric heaters are clear in front. No drapes, furniture, extension cords or kids laundry piled against them. The electric heaters get hot and will start fires.
- Heater	If you have not done so already, have your heater serviced. Preventative maintenance with your heating system can keep the heater from breaking down when you can least afford it.
- Firewood	Store any firewood at least 30 feet from the house. Storing the firewood too close can be a fire hazard and can also attract pests (adding to your home maintenance in the spring).
- Window AC	If you have a window AC unit, that should also be part of your home maintenance checklist. The window AC usually leaks cool air into the home causing drafts. Either cover it or remove it from the window for winter.
- Air Filters	Check furnace air filters for cleanliness
- Humidifiers	If you are planning to run the humidifier check the screen or drum. If the screens are filled with flaking minerals/crud and the drip pan appear ready to overflow, it may be time to have the humidifier serviced.
- Bedrooms	Consider moving your bed's headboard against an interior wall. Sleeping with the cold draft from an exterior wall or window washing over your head at night can cause colds and illness.
- Extra rooms	If you have unused rooms, close them off and lower the temperature to no less than 55 degrees. You don't need to pay to heat the unused space, but you also do not want any pipes to freeze.
- Exterior doors	Look for gaps or "daylight" between doors and frames that may let in a draft of cool air. Install extra door seals to prevent leakage.
- Storm windows	Older homes with storm windows should close

	these for the best heating efficiency.
- Snow shovels	Do you have enough snow shovels and salt? Go to the store when it's not snowing to find some.
- Snow blowers	Check the gas and oil in the snow blower. Start up the snow blower to make sure it runs OK before it snows.