



WEATHERIZATION CHECKLIST

Preparing your Home for Winter

There are a number of actions you should take in fall to ensure that your home will be healthy and efficient throughout winter.

Complete this checklist by the end of September.

- ❖ Clean and inspect gutters. Be sure that downspouts are not clogged so that water flows away from your house.
- ❖ Open bottom air return damper so that it takes the cooler air from the lower returns in winter. These can be closed in the spring so that the hot air can be cooled or circulated out. 
- ❖ Remember to keep air registers and floor vents clear of furniture and other obstructions.
- ❖ Inspect your exterior furnace exhaust port. Be sure it is not blocked or covered. 
- ❖ Change furnace filters and schedule a professional furnace inspection with your local gas company to keep your furnace running as efficiently as possible.
- ❖ Change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

CONTACTS

MAINTENANCE

Plumber: _____

Electrician: _____

Habitat for Humanity: _____

UTILITIES

Telephone: _____

Cable: _____

Gas & Electric: _____

Water: _____

Trash: _____

Recycling: _____



Cold Weather



Home Maintenance Guide

How to keep your home healthy, comfortable, and energy efficient while saving money in the winter season

HEATING

Thermostats

Programmable thermostats can save energy by automatically adjusting heat on a pre-programmed schedule.

- Reduce temperature when sleeping or not at home.
- Each degree lower represents a 1% savings on energy costs.



Periodic Maintenance checks

- Heating, cooling, filtration, and ventilation systems should be professionally inspected at the beginning of each heating season. Your local gas company is a good place to call.
- Furnace filters should be changed at least once per heating season.

Passive Heating

Passive solar energy can provide heat for your home. In winter the sun is low and can penetrate deep into living spaces, naturally heating them.

- Make sure south-facing windows are not blocked by furniture or other large objects.
- Shades can be drawn at night to prevent heat from escaping.

VENTILATION

Highly efficient, airtight homes often lack adequate ventilation in the winter season. This often causes excess moisture, which can allow the development of mold and mildew.

- Run the kitchen exhaust fan whenever using the kitchen stove.
- Be sure to run bathroom exhaust fans during showers and leave them on 20 - 30 minutes afterwards.
- Consider running a dehumidifier in your basement to remove moisture from your home during summer.

LIGHTING

- Always turn off lights when leaving a room.
- When possible, install **compact fluorescent (CFL)** light bulbs, which are four times more efficient and last up to 10 times longer than standard bulbs.
- Even though they are initially more expensive, CFLs help you save money in the long-run, while reducing air and water pollution.



Energy Consumed by Light Bulbs (Watts)	
CFL	Incandescent
13-18 W	60 W
18-22W	75W
23-28 W	100 W
30-38 W	150 W

WATER

- Use low-flow water fixtures for sinks and showerheads to conserve water.
- Repair leaky faucets promptly. They can waste gallons of water in a short amount of time.
- Take showers instead of baths. A 10-minute shower uses less water than a full bath.
- Save money by turning down the heat on your water heater. It should be set at about 115 degrees.
- Wash clothes in cold water. Soak stains before washing.

ELECTRONICS

- Unplug items not in use. Even when turned off, they can waste electricity and cause a hazard.
- Implement power management features on your home computer to conserve energy.
- Use a power strip as a central turn off point when you are done using equipment.
- Seal any holes with caulk or spray foam where TV/cable wires enter and exit your home

APPLIANCES

- Increase the efficiency of your dryer by removing lint regularly. Also be sure the dryer vent does not get clogged.
- When cooking, use the right size stove burner to avoid wasting the burner's heat. Keep the burner plates clean so heat reflects effectively.
- When possible, cook small meals with a microwave to save energy.
- Refrigerators are the largest energy consumer after heating, cooling, and hot water. Think twice about putting an old refrigerator in the garage or another room of your home.
- Keep your refrigerator at 37-40 degrees and your freezer at 5 degrees. Remember to avoid leaving the refrigerator door open for long periods of time and make sure the door seals are airtight.
- The Wisconsin Public Service, partnered with Wisconsin Focus on Energy, offers an appliance pick-up program to encourage households to recycle their old, inefficient refrigerators and freezers to save on future energy costs. You also receive a \$20 cash reward for using this service.

EXTERIOR

- Time lights to go off at dawn.
- Clean and inspect gutters at least twice per year - once in late fall and once in late spring.
- Clear sidewalks of snow and ice by noon the day after a snowfall to avoid fines.
- Plant well-placed trees, shrubs, or vines so that they provide effective shade, act as a windbreak, and reduce your energy bill.



