



Forgot to Winterize Your House This Year? Here's What to Do Now

The temperatures have dropped and the nights are getting longer. You've got your jackets and scarves ready, but have you thought about your home? We're all so busy with our daily routines that we sometimes forget that our houses need attention as seasons change. If you've found yourself, and your home, in a bind this winter there are steps you can take to get you by until the first thaw.

First Aid for Your House

If you didn't winterize your home, you may find yourself with some issues in the coming months. Knowing how to patch up problems before they get worse and until you can get help will save you time and money. Is a leaky roof leaving you with puddles during heavy winter rain and snow? You can use a few supplies and a little elbow grease [stop the downpour](#) before it causes serious damage to your floors or furnishings. Have fallen branches left you in the dark? [Use these reviews](#) from Tool Review Lab to find the perfect flashlight to bring back the light.

Finding Frozen Pipes

Frozen pipes are one of the most common issues that arise in homes during the winter, and one of the most expensive. As the water in pipes freezes it expands and pressure begins to build. If there is no way for that pressure to escape, pipes can quickly rupture. Burst pipes can cause flooding, lack of water supply and add to utility costs. You can prevent this by turning your faucets on to allow a small stream to flow while temperatures are dropping, but it's an easy

task to forget or overlook. Be aware of the [signs of frozen pipes](#) as well as the elements that put your pipes at risk, so you can tackle troubles before they become major complications.

What to DIY and What to Leave to the Pros

There are quite a few tasks you can take on alone around your house. Finding frozen pipes and performing a little first aid on your home can be practical and cost-effective, but there are repairs you should [leave to the pros](#). For example, you can take steps to help thaw frozen pipes but if any have burst, you will need to call a plumber. Clogged up chimneys require a licensed chimney sweep, and electrical issues should always be addressed by a qualified electrician. Attempting these kinds of repairs can be risky, and in some cases, [may even be illegal](#). Save money where you can but know when to call for help.

Prepping for the Future

Knowing who to call and how to address problems as they arise can help you through some tough situations. Being able to prevent these issues from happening is even better. If the weather hasn't gotten rough yet or you have some spare time, there are a few [simple, low cost ways](#) to set your home up for the rest of the season. Wondering what you can do better next year? [Find a checklist](#) to take you through the necessary steps to ensure any required or recommended maintenance is performed on your home before the weather changes. Take some time to wrap and insulate pipes and check for deterioration, and make sure any fireplaces are cleaned out and in working order. Spending time winterizing your house in the fall can spare you from a lot of hassle in the winter.

Finding the time to winterize your house can be tricky but you can still find ways to prepare. Address problems as they arise, pay special attention to pipes and recognize when it's time to consult with a licensed contractor. With the right mindset and the right information, you can help your home get through the winter.