



Winter Weather Preparation

Prepare Your Home

Step 1: Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit

- Prepare to heat your home during a power failure
 - Do not use a gas stove, charcoal or gas grill, or electric generator inside to heat your home, as this may cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
 - Dry firewood for a fireplace or wood stove, or
 - Kerosene for a kerosene heater
- Furnace fuel (coal, propane, or oil)
- Electric space heater with automatic shut-off switch and non-glowing elements
- Blankets
- Matches
- Multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher
- First aid kit and instruction manual
- Flashlight or battery-powered lantern
- Battery-powered radio
- Battery-powered clock or watch
- Extra batteries
- Non-electric can opener
- Snow shovel
- Rock salt
- Special needs items (diapers, hearing aid batteries, medications, etc.)

Step 2: Stockpile Food and Water

- Stock three days worth of non-perishable food items.
- Store one gallon of water per person for three days.

Step 3: Winterize Your Home

- Install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector; before winter begins, test the detectors. Insulate your exterior water lines to prevent freezing pipes; insulate attics and walls; install storm windows and insulated doors.
- Install a thermometer in a frequently visited location and check the indoor temperature regularly.
- Have your chimney, furnace, and other heating utilities inspected by a professional before the winter season begins.

Prepare Your Car

Step 1: Have Essentials in Your Car

Assemble an emergency supplies kit and place it in your car in a plastic tote with a lid.

- First aid kit
- A can and waterproof matches (to melt snow for water)
- Windshield scraper
- Booster cables
- Road maps
- Cell phone and charger
- Toolkit
- Bag of sand or cat litter (to pour on snow for traction)
- Battery-operated radio
- Emergency flare and whistle
- Tow rope
- Tire chains (only legal when used for safety)
- Shovel
- Container of water and high-calorie canned or dried food and a can opener
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Canned compressed air with sealant (for emergency tire repair)
- Brightly colored cloth
- Extra gas
- Emergency numbers and cash in a Ziploc bag
- Extra winter clothes or blankets

Step 2: Winterize Your Car

- Have your vehicle regularly serviced following the manufacturer's suggestions.
- Maintain high antifreeze levels and use wintertime windshield wiper fluid. These supplies can be found at your local automotive retail store.
- Replace worn tires.
- If possible, keep your gas tank close to full in order to prevent ice formation.



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