

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Five prep tips to brace your home for winter cold Easy renter-friendly tips to weatherize your home

(StatePoint) With temperatures dropping nationwide, it's essential that your home and yard are prepared to face the challenges freezing temperatures and snowstorms can bring.

Moen, a leader in water experiences, shares five top tips to prep for the cold.

Store and Secure Your Outdoor Living Space

If left unprotected, patio sets, lawn decorations and outdoor equipment can face rusting from water exposure, and breakage from large amounts of snow and ice. To prevent these issues, invest in waterproof patio covers for larger items like tables and grills. Store smaller objects such as chairs, children's toys, outdoor pillows, planters and decorative signs away in dry areas like garages, sheds or basements.

Protect Pipes

While snow and ice might look magical, that thought quickly fades when pipes burst or spring a leak. When water freezes, it can expand and put pressure on pipes, increasing the chance of them bursting. Having weak or corroded pipes increases this risk. Proactively protect your plumbing through a smart leak detection device, such as the Moen Flo Smart Water Monitor and Shutoff. This innovative product connects directly to the home's main water line and constantly monitors water flow rate and pressure to identify potential problems. If an issue is found, like low flow rate or high pressure, which can indicate a frozen pipe, it will alert you in real-time via the smartphone app so you can take action. It can even be set to automatically turn off the water before damage occurs. As a bonus, some insurance companies offer discounts for installing a smart leak detection device, helping you save money and providing peace of mind.

On top of protecting plumbing with smart leak detection, don't forget to check on sprinklers and exterior hoses. Properly shut off water supplies to these areas and drain any existing water to eliminate the chance they'll cause a frozen or burst pipe.

Beat the Chill By Checking Doors and Windows

Properly sealed windows and doors can act as a vital barrier against winter's harsh conditions. By preventing heat loss and maintaining consistent indoor temperatures, proper sealing helps reduce heating and energy costs while enhancing comfort. Determine where better insulation is needed by feeling around for cold drafts coming in through windows, doors and even unexpected areas like electrical sockets. To block the chill, do easy upgrades like weatherstripping around windows and doors, covering windows entirely with shrink film, adding covers around electrical sockets and using slide-on draft blockers at door bottoms.

Prep Heating and Alarm Systems

A home's heating system gets a workout in the colder months. Hire a professional to do a checkup and install a fresh air filter. Getting your furnace in top shape will help maintain a comfortable temperature, keep utility bills steady and help prevent fires. Don't leave out carbon monoxide and smoke alarms. Having functional alarms can be lifesaving if a space heater catches fire or there's a leak from your gas furnace.

Attend to Your Home's Exterior

Providing a little extra love and care to your home's exterior and lawn can ease stress. To avoid a roofing collapse or leaks from heavy snowfall, check your roof - or have a professional check it - for any prior damage and address it as soon as possible. Clean out gutters to remove debris buildup and trim tree branches that may pose risks for falling if piled with heavy snow or ice. Don't forget to take inventory of snow removal tools, and stock up on supplies like snow shovels and salt to be ready for when bad weather hits.

For more information from Moen, visit moen.com.

A comprehensive winterization checklist can be a significant factor in how much wear and tear winter storms cause on the home - and help ensure a stress-free cold weather season.



(StatePoint) Taking the proper steps to weatherproof your rental is a simple way to stay snug this cold-weather season - while also resulting in notable savings on heating and energy bills.

In fact, a Duck brand survey found that 80% of people noticed a decrease in their heating bill after using affordable weatherization products, such as window insulation kits, weatherstrip seals and door draft seals. With this in mind, here are temporary ways to prep your rental for the winter without causing any damage.

Install draft seals. Doors and windows are notorious for letting in cold air, which can drastically affect your home's temperature. Fortunately for renters, the Duck Brand Double Draft Seal is a removable solution designed to insulate your door from both sides. This practical tool blocks drafts while maintaining the room's temperature, ensuring both comfort and energy efficiency. Simply slide the seal under interior or exterior doors and window frames to keep cold air from coming in. Even better, the seals can be reused in future residences, making them a smart choice for keeping your comfort intact wherever you choose to live next.

Hang thermal curtains. Thermal curtains are an excellent option if you're looking for DIY ways to increase your space's energy

efficiency. By hanging these insulated drapes, the cold air between the window and fabric remains trapped, helping to maintain a comfortable temperature without the need to turn up the heat. If your lease doesn't give permission to drill into the wall, use a tension rod to install them.

Embrace window kits. If thermal curtains aren't your style, installing a removable window kit is just as easy. The Duck Max Strength Rolled Shrink Film Window Insulation Kit creates an added barrier between the outdoor air and your home's inside. Plus, unlike thermal curtains, the film is crystal clear and allows natural light to peer through windows.

Dress your floors. Who said weatherization can't be stylish? By placing decorative, cozy rugs on hardwood floors and tiles, you can further insulate your rental. While these items won't fully prevent heat loss, they do offer an extra layer of warmth and can help reduce drafts from cold floors, making them an obvious choice if you're a renter looking to stay warm without making permanent changes.

For more weatherization how-to's, head to www.duckbrand.com/weatherize.

By taking these steps, renters can remain draft-free and damage-free, staying warm while lowering costly electric bills.

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