

Before winter

Half an hour now saves a lot of trouble on the coldest night. Print this and keep it on the fridge.

This month

about 30 min

- ☐ **Test the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms**
Press the test button on each one.
- ☐ **Change the heating filter**
Most last 1 to 3 months.
- ☐ **Have the heat serviced**
Before the first cold week, when pros get busy.
- ☐ **Clean the dryer vent**
Lint in the duct is a common cause of dryer fires.
- ☐ **Find the main water shutoff**
Tag it and show everyone at home. It's the valve that matters if a pipe bursts.
- ☐ **Photograph every room and each side of the house**
Dated photos show how things looked before.
- ☐ **Clear the gutters after the leaves drop**

Before the first freeze

if it freezes where you live

- ☐ **Unhook the garden hoses**
A hose left on can split the pipe inside the wall.
- ☐ **Cover the outside faucets**
Foam covers cost a few dollars.
- ☐ **Drain the sprinkler lines**
Or book a pro to blow them out.
- ☐ **Wrap exposed pipes**
In the garage, crawlspace and attic. Foam sleeves slip on without tools.
- ☐ **Have the chimney checked and swept**
Once a year, before the first fire.

On a freeze night

28°F or colder

- ☐ **Let faucets on outside walls drip**
A slow drip of cold water.
- ☐ **Open the sink cabinets on outside walls**
So the house's heat reaches the pipes.
- ☐ **Keep the garage door closed**
- ☐ **Keep the heat at 55°F or higher**
Even when you're away.

If a pipe bursts

right away

- ☐ **Shut off the main water**
The valve you found this month.
- ☐ **Stay away from water near outlets or the panel**
- ☐ **Photograph the damage before cleaning up**
And keep every receipt.
- ☐ **Start drying within a day or two**
Then tell your insurer.

Stay safe

Run a generator outside only, at least 20 feet from doors and windows, never in the garage. Keep space heaters 3 feet from anything that burns.