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Maintenance

How to Winterize your Home

Seal Leaks around Doors and Windows

- Can account for 10% of your heating bill.
- Add/replace worn weather-stripping around doors and windows.
- Caulk gaps where necessary.
- If you have them, install storm doors and windows.

Check Heating System

- Have a licensed contractor do a routine-check before cold weather arrives.
- If it has one, replace the furnace filter.
- Consider installing a programmable thermostat. It regulates the temperature, allowing the home to be cooler when you are away or asleep.
- Fill oil or propane tanks.

Check the Fireplace

- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned if necessary.
- Close the fireplace damper when not in use.

Check for Adequate Insulation

- Proper attic insulation keeps your home warmer in the winter and cooler in summer.

Check the Roof

- Replace loose shingles.
- Make sure the flashing around the chimney or vent pipes is watertight.
- Install a screen at the top of the chimney to keep leaves and other items out.
- Clean drain gutters and point downspouts away from the house.
- Trim tree limbs that are hanging over/touching roof.

Winterize the Plumbing

- Take care of known issues with pipes that freeze. Heat tape can be used to keep them warm during extremely cold weather.
- Learn how to turn off water at its source so that you can stop leaks immediately if they start.