



Preparing for Winter: Tips

- 1. Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors once a year**
 - Make sure they are all in working order and test them every month.
 - If it has been over 10 years since your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors have been replaced, swap them out for new ones.
- 2. Clean your chimney and fireplace**
 - If you use your fireplace often get it and the chimney cleaned annually.
 - To prevent building up, clean the ash from the fireplace regularly.
- 3. Check your furnace/heating system**
 - Install and maintain heating equipment correctly. Have your furnace inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season.
 - Don't store newspapers, rags or other combustible materials near a furnace, hot water heater, space heater, etc.
 - If used improperly, a [space heater](#) can be the most dangerous appliance in your house.
 - Don't leave space heaters operating when you're not in the room.
 - Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that might burn, including the wall.
 - Don't use extension cords with electric space heaters. The high amount of current they require could melt the cord and start a fire.
 - When lighting a gas space heater, strike your match first, then turn on the gas.
 - Never use your gas range as a substitute for a furnace or space heater.
- 4. Prepare your vehicle**
 - Have your vehicle serviced regularly.
 - Check the tread and air pressure in your tires.
 - Check the concentration level of antifreeze in your vehicle's engine.
 - Add de-icer wiper fluid solution to prevent spray from freezing.
 - Find out more ways to prepare your vehicle for the upcoming winter with [Winter, Your Vehicle and You](#).
- 5. Prepare for a winter emergency with a [Winter Survival Kit](#).**
- 6. Be ready for ice, snow and cold temperatures** – Snow and icy conditions can impact parts of nearly every U.S. state. Have shovels and de-icer available to remove snow and ice from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots. Don't forget hats, scarves and gloves to prevent frostbite.
- 7. Check your fire extinguisher** – Charge and/or replace it if necessary.
- 8. Get your flu shot** – With the winter season, comes flu season.
 - It takes your body two weeks to build immunity from the flu. So get your flu shot early –sometime in October or November. However, it is never too late to get the flu vaccine.
 - A flu shot will protect you from the most common strains of influenza for that season.

Safety
at HOME

National Safety Council

saves lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the roads, through leadership, research, education and advocacy.

1121 SPRING LAKE DRIVE
ITASCA, IL 60143
(800) 621-7619 • [nsc.org](#)
customerservice@nsc.org