

Winterize Your Home Checklist



Exterior maintenance

- Fill all the cracks and crevices in your foundation to prevent your house from leaking heat and sucking up extra energy. Seal hard-to-reach or oddly-shaped gaps with an expandable foam.
- Have your chimney cleaned and inspected by a professional chimney sweep. Before you light the first log, be sure the chimney cap is intact, and your chimney liner, firebox, smoke chamber, and damper are all in good working condition.
- Clean your gutters, then install an ice shield on your roof to protect against ice dams that form at the edge of a roof and prevent melting snow from draining.
- Branches that loom over rooftops, power lines and driveways can snap under the weight of snow. Trim your branches back to avoid the risk of seriously damaging anything beneath them.
- Shelter foliage from falling ice and snow under a reusable A-frame structure. Wrap twine around the middle of tall and narrow greenery to keep individual branches from breaking under the weight of heavy snow.

Don't forget to protect small shrubs from the wind by wrapping them with burlap and stapling the material to stakes.
- Cold air can seep in through unsealed cracks in and around your air conditioner, so either remove it from your window for the winter, or securely wrap it with an approved tarp or plastic cover. If your unit has a water valve, shut off the valve and drain it.



- Juan Carlos Garcia
- 914-262-1340
- JC@SunbeltUS.com



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