

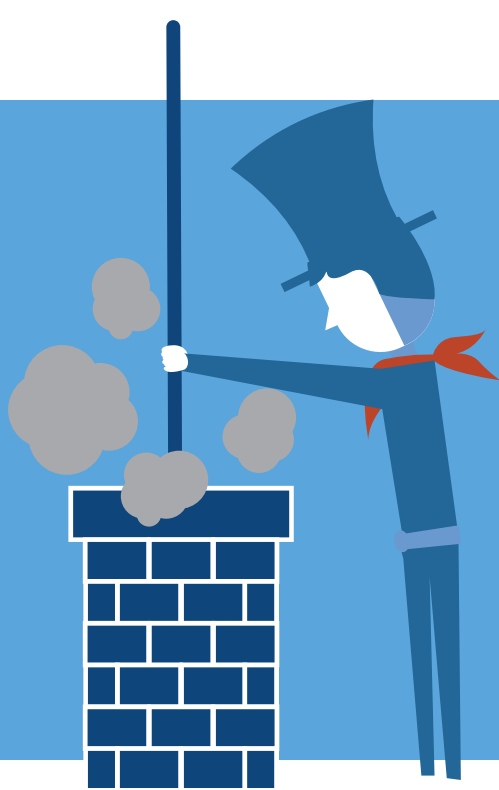
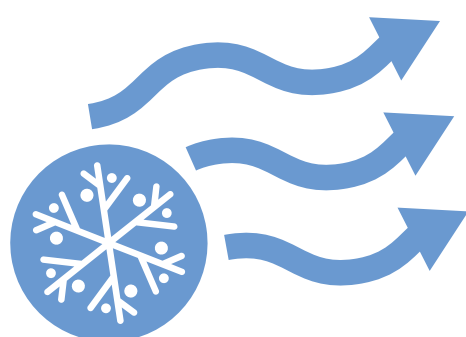
PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR ANOTHER **COLD WINTER**



BEST WAYS TO WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

PROPER INSULATION

Help keep heat inside and cold air out by making sure you properly insulate, caulk and weather-strip areas of heat loss. Check walls, floors, doors, windows and the foundation for cracks or leaks.

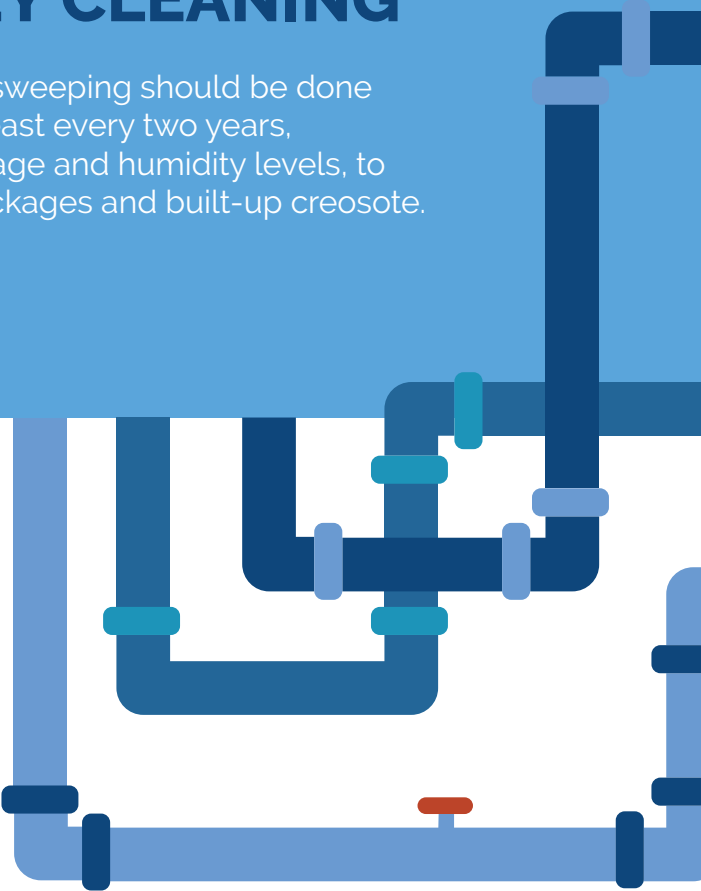


CHIMNEY CLEANING

A good chimney sweeping should be done every year or at least every two years, depending on usage and humidity levels, to remove soot, blockages and built-up creosote.

CHECK YOUR WATER PIPES

Save energy and help prevent pipes from freezing and bursting by wrapping your water heater in a special water heater insulating blanket and insulating exposed water pipes. Always maintain the temperature inside your home to a minimum of 18 degrees. If you notice frost on your pipes, take immediate action to safely thaw them.

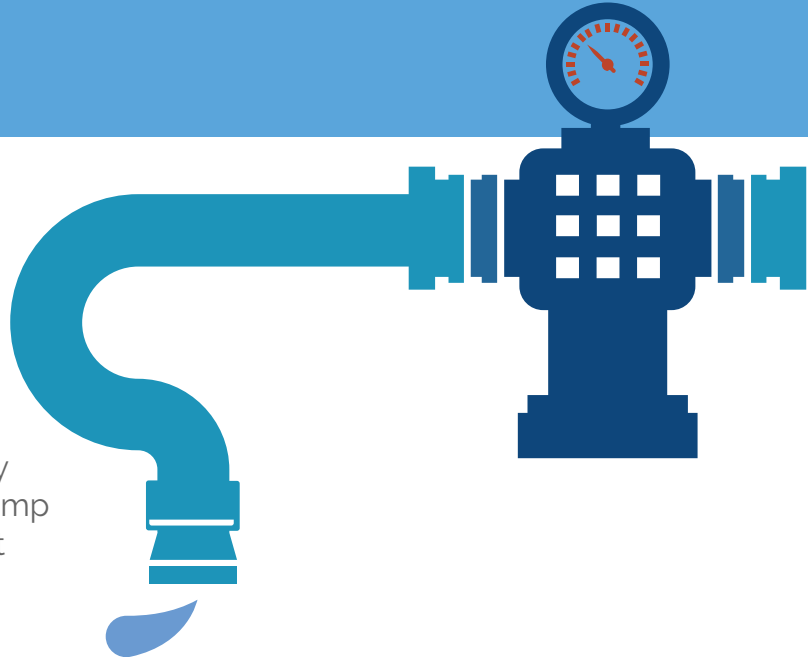


SERVICE YOUR FURNACE

It's a good idea to have your furnace inspected and cleaned each year to ensure its reliability throughout the winter months. There are also several maintenance basics that you can perform yourself, even if you aren't very handy.

TEST YOUR SUMP PUMP

Although it's always a good idea to have a fully functioning sump pump, the winter months can be even more important, especially when temperatures are fluctuating. Test your pump by filling a bucket of water and slowly pouring it into the sump pit, keeping an eye on the float and the overall performance of the pump.



DON'T FORGET THE OUTDOORS

Keep gutters and downspouts free of debris to help melting snow and ice flow away from your home, and to help prevent ice dams from forming. Turn off the water to your garden hose spigots and drain the lines.

FOR MORE SAFETY TIPS AND INFORMATION

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