



PHILLIPS HOME IMPROVEMENTS

410-798-9030

www.phi-md.com

Extreme Cold Weather Checklist

The Capital
READERS ✓
CHOICE
2·0·1·2
WINNER

The Capital
READERS ✓
CHOICE
2·0·1·3
WINNER

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS FOR YOUR HOME IN COLD WEATHER:

- There is a potential hazard to you and your home if you use fireplaces and chimneys that haven't been properly inspected and maintained. Do not burn Christmas tree branches, treated wood, or wrapping paper in a home fireplace. Block off unused fireplaces, because they can suck the heat out.
- Space heaters can help keep you warm. If you use one, avoid a fire hazard by having a 3-foot circle of safety, free of anything that can catch fire; such as curtains or furniture. Avoid the use of extension cords with heat producing appliances. While sleeping, turn off your space heater.
- Be sure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and that they have fresh batteries.
- When water freezes, it expands, building up extreme pressure resulting in ruptured metal or plastic pipes. If you have not already disconnected the garden hose from the spigot outside, do so right away, to prevent a pipe from bursting from the water build up from the garden hose.
- Avoid flooding indoors, by checking the outside point of discharge from your sump pump, to make sure it is not blocked by an accumulation snow or ice.
- Keep cupboards open under sinks; especially ones located near exterior walls, to allow warm air to circulate around them and help prevent pipes from freezing. In addition you can protect these pipes by letting warm water drip, even at a trickle, from a faucet that is farthest from your water meter or one that has frozen in the past.
- In case of a water emergency; for quick access, locate the water shut-off valve in your home in advance and mark it. Be sure that other members in the household also know the location. Know how to turn off your water in the event of a pipe rupture.
- Program your local utility, and service technicians contact information into your cell phone now, before you need them.

- In the case of a power outage, have a supply of flashlights, batteries, a battery-powered radio, bottled water, and three day supply of high energy, non-perishable food on hand.
If your power goes out, be sure to turn off all the lights except for one, so when the power comes back on, the light will alert you the power is back.
- In the event of a power outage, turn off and disconnect appliances and computers, to prevent “surges” or “spikes” from damaging computers and motors in appliances such as air conditioner, refrigerator, washer/dryer or furnace, when power is restored
- Never use a generator anywhere inside a home, including in the basement or in the garage.
- To reduce drafts, make sure door seals are caulked, use draft guards under doors
- Pulling curtains and blinds shut will help to keep heat in.
- Check on elderly, handicapped and relatives and friends who may need additional assistance to ensure their safety and to address their concerns
- If you are planning to be away from your home for an extended period of time, be sure to maintain adequate heat inside your home, no lower than 55 degrees. Turn off the main water supply to safe guard your home in the event of a water emergency, such as leak from your hot water heater or a leak from any other water source in your home. Preventing a water emergency is essential; even a small leak can be catastrophic over time.

Stay safe and warm this winter!