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Prepare for Winter Checklist

- Have your HVAC serviced now before it turns cold and everyone is calling for repairs at the last minute.
- Filters need to be changed in the winter too! Order a supply of them now to have on hand. I recommend swapping them out at least every 30 days or so to ensure your system can work efficiently and effectively and provide a better level of indoor air quality.
- Check the ductwork in your home to ensure that it is all connected and properly sized. Ductwork plays a crucial role in determining how comfortable your home is from room to room, so this is definitely not something to overlook.
- Test and change batteries on smoke detectors and carbon monoxide sensors.
- Turn off outdoor faucets and shut valves, put away hoses, drain sprinkler systems.
- Clean the gutters.
- something to overlook. Repair, replace or add ducting as necessary!
- Have fireplaces inspected, keep flues closed when not in use. Order firewood now. Even gas fireplaces need to be serviced!
- Insulate water pipes in drafty and cold areas. We insulated our pipes in the basement up at the North House Lodge just recently!
- Trim trees away from roofline and gutters

- Stock up on salt, snow shovels and check your snow blower to make sure it's working. Read these [Tips and Hacks to Get Rid of Snow and Ice](#).
- Rake and remove leaves from the yard.
- Test your sump pump. We've flooded in winter!

Tips To Help Make Your Home Warmer

- Find drafty spots and seal them! Check light switches and electrical outlets, if you feel cold air escaping from them, seal them. An electrical outlet and wall plate insulating kit uses thin foam pads to eliminate cold drafts out.
- Check doors and weather stripping. If you can see outside, cold air can get in. Here are a few easy ways to deal with drafty spots.
 - Use a door sweep to block the gaps at the floor.
 - Change out the weather stripping.
 - Use a draft snake for window sills.
 - Use rope caulk for big gaps around windows, then caulk to seal them.
- Once the temperature drops, it's still important to continue to change air filters monthly to ensure optimal airflow and to feel confident that the air you're breathing is especially clean. Try a [Trane Comfort Performance Filter](#), that traps dust, pollen and bacteria. They're compatible with Trane or any standard HVAC systems.
- Open curtains in the day to let heat in from sunlight.
- Move furniture away from heat vents that could block the warm air circulation.
- Close vents to rooms that aren't used, why heat rooms that are not used?
- Reverse ceiling fans to push warm air down.
- Invest in a few warm throws for sofas. They are pretty and useful.
- Add an extra layer or two to bedding. It looks pretty and keeps you warmer at night.