

SNOW PATROL

PREPARE YOUR HOME TO BATTLE WINTER

Heavy snowfall can provide challenges for homeowners that can include damaged walls and collapsed roofs. **Before any sign of snow, prepare your home for winter.**

TAKE IT FROM THE TOP

Heat rising inside an attic can melt snow on the roof. The water rolls down and refreezes at the edge forcing its way under shingles, forming ice dams. **Insulate roofs** to prevent the heat from rising and install proper ventilation to let heat escape and reduce the possibility of moisture buildup. In addition, have a building inspector **check to make sure your roof can withstand a heavy snowfall.**

WALL-TO-WALL

As heat and moisture build up inside a home, it can come in contact with cold walls and windows to create mold. Have **insulation placed inside walls and fill in holes and spaces around windows** to reduce the amount of cold air that comes in. You may also **hang thicker curtains, install weatherstripping and wrap windows** in plastic to reduce the entry of cold air.

PIPE DREAMS

Pipes can freeze and burst which causes massive damage. **Wrap pipes in crawl spaces and basements with insulation** to reduce the likelihood of them freezing and bursting. With pipes running through unheated or exposed areas, let a **slow trickle** run through faucets to keep water flowing and prevent freezing. Finally, **drain your home's entire water system** if you know you'll be away for a long period of time.

THE BOTTOM LINE

To protect the foundation of your home, make sure gutter downspouts are turned away from the home to reduce water buildup. Seal any cracks in the foundation to also keep water out, and **drain your lawn watering system** to prevent those pipes from freezing and bursting.

Source: www.familyhandyman.com/roof/ice-dams/ice-dams-view-all | www.thisoldhouse.com/how-to/how-to-drain-pipes-winter | www.apartmenttherapy.com/50-these-7-things-how-to-prepare-your-home-for-winter-211916 | www.kiplinger.com/story/how-real-estate/2009-001-12-ways-to-prepare-your-home-for-winter/index.html | www.bobvila.com/articles/502-winter-preparation-checklist/#.WCDvP9RkJA