

Ways to Prepare For a Winter Storm

What to Prepare...WAY Before

- Make sure you have a 3 day supply of water (3 gallons per person) and easy to prepare food.
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio
- Make sure you have a good shovel.
- Purchase a supply of flashlights and candles.
- Clean and inspect your chimney if you have one. Make sure you have a supply of wood.
- Make sure you have an ample supply of blankets
- Clear rain gutters and repair roof leaks.
- Research and purchase an alternate way of cooking.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Learn how to care for frostbite and hypothermia
- Weather strip any drafty doors or windows.
- Purchase rock salt (or something similar) to help you keep walkways safe.
- Install good winter tires on your car and make sure the wipers work well.
- Make sure you have fire extinguishers in your home and that everyone can use them.
- Consider purchasing a good supply of heat packs.
- Consider purchasing a kerosene heater. Make sure it is legal in your area.

What to Prepare Days Before

- Fill your gas tank.
- Check your supplies of flashlights, lanterns etc. Make sure they are easily accessible.
- Charge your cell phones and other electronics.
- Pull out any generators / large battery backups that you have.
- Check antifreeze levels in your car.
- Make sure all adults in your house know how to shut of your main water valve.
- If you will be separated from family members, make sure you know where they are before the storm and where / when you will meet up after.
- Make sure you know how to manually operate your electric garage door.

What to do During:

- If temperatures are extremely low, turn on every faucet so that it is just barely dripping.
- Open kitchen and sink cabinets and wrap them in newspaper to help insulate them.
- Keep your thermostat set as high during the night as you have it during the day.
- Avoid driving. If you must drive, make certain you have emergency supplies in your car.
- Keep your radio nearby and listen for updates.
- Stay Dry! Change your clothes immediately if you get wet.
- Use Flashlights before candles to avoid the risk of house fire.
- If your pipes freeze, warm them with a hair dryer. Or wrap them in rags. Open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold.
- Use WD-40 on your snow shovel to make shoveling easier.
- If the power goes out, put towels at the bottoms of doors that have gaps and cover single paned or drafty windows with blankets. Close doors to un-needed rooms.
- Dress in layers. Put on tights and / or long underwear and then more loose fitting, light weight clothing. End with warm socks and a hoodie. Keep head and feet warm. You can also cover your mouth with a scarf. Also, EAT! This will help your body produce more heat.
- Have your entire family get in the same bed if possible to share warmth.
- If an extended power outage is expected, put frozen food outside and refrigerated food in the garage. These will likely be colder than your fridge (without power) after a day or so.
- Unplug any important electrical equipment to avoid a surge when power is restored.

