

## WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

A 20-POINT CHECKLIST

Colorado's cold and snowy winters will put any home to the test. Here's our comprehensive checklist to help you prevent common problems, both inside and out. With a little bit of work, you will enjoy a safe and cozy home all winter long.

## **OUTSIDE YOUR HOME**

☐ Clear gutters and downspouts then double-check them after the leaves are done falling. ☐ Hire a roofing pro to inspect for loose/missing shingles or flashing and fix any damage. ☐ Have a lawn care expert blow out sprinkler lines and shut off the system for the season. ☐ Disconnect all hoses from your outside faucets and attach an insulated hose bib cover. ☐ Close crawl space and other exterior vents that were opened for the summer. ☐ Trim weak or dead tree branches that could break and fall on your roof, car or fence. ☐ Cover up or store outdoor furniture, grills and hoses in your garage, basement or shed. ☐ Apply a fresh coat of sealer to a deck to prevent damage from snow build-up and rain. ☐ To prevent fires and any hazards, have your chimney cleaned, inspected and repaired. ☐ Buy a snow shovel, salt or sand and other winter supplies well before the snow arrives.

## **INSIDE YOUR HOME**

Have an HVAC professional service the furnace, checking the blower, motor, piping, etc.
☐ Replace your furnace filter and continue doing so every 4-6 weeks throughout the winter.
$\hfill \Box$ Seal drafts (with caulk/weatherstripping) around doors, windows, lights and switchplates.
☐ Clean out your window tracks, removing dirt or debris that may prevent proper sealing.
☐ Test the fireplace flue, confirming it operates properly and forms a tight, closed seal.
☐ Insulate your water heater along with exposed pipes in areas like a crawlspace or attic.
☐ Check all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace the batteries if needed.
$\hfill \square$ Move furniture and other items away from heating vents to ensure efficient airflow.
$\hfill \square$ Set ceiling fans to turn clockwise, pushing hot air from the ceiling down to the floor.
☐ Install a smart or programmable thermostat to control temps when you're not at home.



