

## Prepare for Winter Weather

With the transition from fall to winter, it’s time to start preparing for severe winter weather. Freezing temperatures, snowstorms, frozen pipes and slick roads can cause major issues. Protect yourself and your family with these tips.



### Prepare your home

In addition to [preparing your pipes for cold weather](#), install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in every room. Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen and each floor of your home and be sure everyone in your family knows how to use them correctly. Trim branches that could fall on your home. Hire professionals to inspect your chimney and furnace.



### Protect your pets

Exposure to cold air and chilly rain, sleet and snow can cause chapped paws and itchy, flaking skin. If it’s too cold for you, it’s probably too cold for your pets. Don’t keep your pets outdoors for long periods of time during very cold weather. Short-coated dogs may need a coat or sweater during walks. Make sure outdoor dogs have a dry, draft-free doghouse with a floor that is elevated a few inches off the ground and is covered with cedar shavings or straw, and has an entrance that faces away from heavy winds and is covered with a flap of heavy waterproof fabric or heavy plastic.



### Prepare your car

Check your tire pressure and tread regularly. Rotate tires to help with even wear, use the proper tires for the season and make sure your spare tire is properly inflated. Make sure your battery, brakes, lights, cooling and heating systems, electrical and exhaust systems, and belts and hoses are in good shape and function correctly. Check your oil and fluids, and change your wiper blades if needed. Make sure your windshield washer reservoir is full of fluid that is proper for the season.



### Pack emergency supplies in your vehicle

Don’t get behind the wheel in bad weather if you don’t have to. But if you have no choice, make sure your vehicle includes a first aid kit, water, food, jumper cables, tire chains, a flashlight, road flares, blankets, warm clothes, gloves, a radio, a portable cellphone charger, sand or kitty litter for traction, a shovel, tire changing tools and an extra ice scraper.

The following resources can also be used to help you prepare for the unexpected:

- Emergency water storage: [regionalh2o.org](http://regionalh2o.org)
- Emergency preparedness kits: [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).
- Prepare your home’s pipes for cold weather: [www.tvwd.org/cold](http://www.tvwd.org/cold)
- Update your contact information with TVWD: [www.tvwd.org/portal](http://www.tvwd.org/portal)

- TVWD emergency notification tool: <https://www.flashalert.net/>
- Other local agency emergency notification tools: <https://oralert.gov/>



Do you have your emergency supply of water and food, and have taken other steps to prepare for emergencies?

[Click here for past editions of the emergency preparedness tip newsletters.](#)

