Winter Home & Car Prep Checklist

2026–27

A practical, fill-in-by-hand list for homeowners and renters in the United States and Canada. Walk the house, prep the car, and keep a simple log from November through March.



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How to use this checklist

Print this file at 100% (actual size) on US Letter paper, 8.5 × 11 inches. Do not use “fit to page.” Black-and-white printing is fine. Use a pen, and print a fresh copy next fall if you like.

Six simple steps

1. Walk the outside of the home first, then the inside, then the car. Check a box when the task is done. Add a date in the monthly log if you want a record.
2. Fill in the contacts page and post it where everyone in the home can find it — the fridge, a utility closet, or a home binder.
3. Keep the snow-day and cold-snap page somewhere easy to grab when a storm or deep freeze is in the forecast.
4. Use the monthly log from November 2026 through March 2027 for filter changes, alarm tests, and quick mid-winter checks.
5. Renters: roof, gutter, furnace, and chimney work may be your landlord’s or property manager’s job. Check your lease. You can still use the indoor safety, kit, contacts, and car pages, and you can write who is responsible in the blanks.
6. If a task needs gas, electrical, roof, chimney, or major heating work, stop and call a licensed professional. This list is a memory aid, not an inspection.

This season at a glance

Nov 2026	First-freeze prep: hoses, faucets, heat, alarms, car kit.
Dec 2026	Mid-season check: filter, tire pressure, restock washer fluid.
Jan 2027	Coldest weeks: pipes, cabinets, exhaust vents, deep-cold kit.
Feb 2027	Another filter change if due; look for ice dams from the ground.
Mar 2027	Thaw check: leaks, gutters, notes for spring repairs.

Safety notes

- [ ] Use a ladder only on dry, level ground, and only if you are comfortable. Stay off a wet or icy roof.
- [ ] Never use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or oven to heat your home. Carbon monoxide has no color and no smell.
- [ ] Space heaters go into a wall outlet only — not a power strip or extension cord — with 3 feet (about 1 metre) of clearance. Turn them off when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- [ ] If you smell gas, leave the building and call your gas utility’s emergency number or 911 from outside.
- [ ] Follow the manufacturer instructions for your furnace, water heater, detectors, and vehicle. Local codes may also apply.

Disclaimer. This printable is general information for personal use. It is not professional advice, a home or vehicle inspection, or a substitute for manufacturer instructions, local building or fire codes, or a licensed plumber, electrician, HVAC technician, roofer, chimney sweep, or mechanic. Housing types, climate, and rules differ. If you are unsure, call a qualified professional. botkora is not responsible for injury or damage arising from use of this list.

Home exterior checklist

Do these before the first hard freeze if you can. Check a box when the task is done. Renters: some of these items may belong to your landlord — note that in the blank at the bottom.

Water, roof, and drainage

- [ ] Disconnect garden hoses, drain them, and store them indoors or in a shed.
- [ ] Shut off interior valves to outdoor faucets if you have them, then drain the faucets.
  Add insulated faucet covers. A leftover hose on a bib is a common way pipes freeze.
- [ ] Clear leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts so meltwater can drain.
- [ ] Confirm downspouts send water away from the foundation. Extensions help.
- [ ] From the ground, look at the roof for loose or missing shingles, damaged flashing, or sagging.
  Do not climb a wet or icy roof. Hire a professional for roof work or if you cannot see clearly.
- [ ] Trim, or hire a service to trim, branches that could fall on the house, driveway, or service lines.
- [ ] Clear leaves from basement or window wells, and check that well covers are secure.

Drafts, doors, and the yard

- [ ] Check weatherstripping on exterior doors. Replace it if you can see daylight or feel a draft.
- [ ] Check window caulk and glazing. Seal small gaps; schedule larger repairs.
- [ ] Confirm door sweeps touch the threshold without catching.
- [ ] If you use storm windows or indoor window film, put them up before the first hard freeze.
- [ ] Cover or service the outdoor air-conditioner or heat-pump unit as the manufacturer directs.
- [ ] Put away or cover tools, hoses, and outdoor furniture. Let a grill cool completely before you cover it.
- [ ] Test outdoor lights and GFCI outlets. Replace burned-out bulbs so paths stay visible.
- [ ] Set out the snow shovel, ice melt, and a sturdy doormat. Plan where plowed snow will go.
  Do not pile snow against the house, a dryer vent, or a heating exhaust.
- [ ] Make sure house numbers are easy to see from the street for emergency services.
- [ ] If you expect deep snow, mark the edges of the driveway or walk so a plow can see them.
- [ ] If you have a crawl space or foundation vents, follow local practice or your installer’s winter guidance.

Who is responsible (homeowner / renter / landlord) · date finished