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An Ounce of Prevention

Well ... the rains have come, and with that is the knowledge that winter - whatever it brings us this year - is just around the corner. Here are a few tips you can do now to get your home ready for winter. As Benjamin Franklin put it, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!"

- If you have a propane or oil furnace or a propane or gas fireplace make sure to have your **fuel storage tank topped up** and ready to go.
- **Clear obstacles** to heating vents and from the front of the fireplace so air can flow freely.
- **Replace** any air filters with new, clean ones and have the furnace and fireplaces checked by a service technician. When was the last time you had your chimney cleaned?



- All exterior faucets need to have their water supply turned off inside the house, and the water drained by opening up the exterior faucet. Most important, **disconnect your garden hoses** from all your outside faucets now.
- **Test** your carbon monoxide alarm and smoke alarm and add new batteries if needed.



- Make sure to insulate any exposed water or drain piping in un-insulated spaces such as a crawlspace, attic, outside wall with foam insulation.
- Check all your interior taps and faucets for drips, leaks and worn taps.
- **Look** for leaks or rust on your hot water tank. How old it is?

By taking care of potential problems now, you will reduce the need for an emergency service call later.