

GET YOUR HOME READY FOR WINTER, EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT

A message from Liberty Mutual Insurance

As winter approaches, it's time to make sure that your home is protected from the cold, and that your heating system and fireplace are prepped and primed to keep you cozy.

Windows

Sealing your windows is a good way to improve your heating efficiency and to make sure you'll stay warm. It's advisable to do this before freezing temperatures hit, as ice-cold windows are tougher to seal properly. Using window seals in conjunction with layered curtains helps keep your home insulated for optimal comfort. Draft snakes are long pillows that block cold air and also help insulate doors and windows.

Fireplace

Hiring a chimney sweep can ensure that your fireplace is ready to go. In addition to clearing out soot, they will also check for damage and should also change the chimney cap in order to prevent rain and snow, birds, squirrels or anything else from entering.

Furnace

Nothing will give you the winter blues like turning on your furnace only to find it isn't working. To prep your furnace, first check and change your filter. Next, anything stored near the furnace or on or in front of air ducts and return vents may be a fire hazard or block air circulation, and should be removed. Lastly, you may need to contact your gas or oil provider for a furnace refill.

Radiators

If your home is heated by hot-water radiators, you should bleed the valves by opening them until water starts to appear and then closing them again. This will release trapped air and let hot water heat the radiator and home.

Liberty Mutual makes winter claims quick and easy by connecting with you live via video with RealTime Review. Visit <https://www.libertymutual.com/claims-insurance/claims-home/video-estimating> for more information on how to get an estimate using video chat. And contact your agent to learn more about **contractor referrals, damage mitigation and accommodation support**.

To learn more about Liberty Mutual Auto and Home Insurance and ways we can help protect your home and car this winter, or to get a free, no-obligation quote, call 800-809-9778 or visit www.libertymutual.com/nar

SOURCES:

<http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/tips-windows>

<http://www.stcharlesil.gov/city-services/electric/electric-safety-tips-winter>

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