

LARS

KNOWS



TOP 10
winterization tips
for your home

WINTER
REMINDERS



LARS KNOBLOCH

HOME INSPECTOR

**PROTECT YOUR HOME,
PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT**



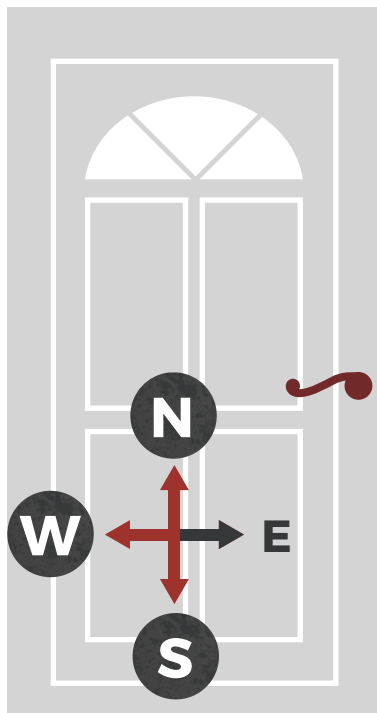
LARS KNOWS WINTERIZATION

THERE'S A LOT TO DO AS
**FALL TURNS
TO WINTER**

LARS' TOP 10 LIST OF IMPORTANT WINTERIZATION TIPS

10 **INSTALL A STORM DOOR**

Having a storm door in front of your exterior door is important, especially if your door is facing north, west or south as we see a lot of weather coming in from those directions. A storm door will help insulate against drafts and help prevent moisture from getting inside.



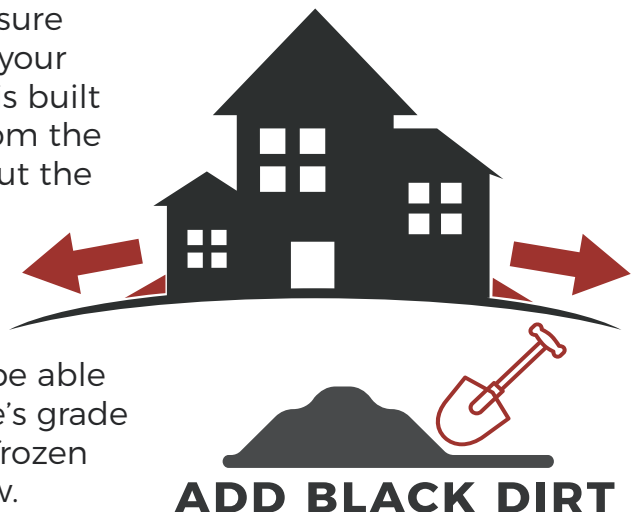
9 **SEAL YOUR ATTIC ACCESS DOOR**

Most homes have an attic access door, typically found in a closet. This door needs to be sealed airtight. We recommend running a bead of caulking around the entire opening to properly seal it. Without this, warm air in your home will be sucked into the cold attic space, causing condensation, frost and eventually mold formation. Sealing this door will also help in lowering your home's heating costs.

8 **IMPROVE YOUR GRADE**

The grade around your home should be something you are aware of year-round! If the ground is sloping toward your home, it is called negative grade. This can be fixed by adding black dirt around your foundation to create the

proper slope. Make sure the ground around your home's foundation is built up to slope away from the structure. Throughout the winter, this will help shed water away from your home as snow melts. You will not be able to adjust your home's grade after the ground is frozen and covered in snow.



7 SERVICE YOUR GAS FIREPLACE



Be proactive and have your gas fireplace looked at every other year. For safety and efficiency, it is important to have your fireplace in good working order.

5 CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS

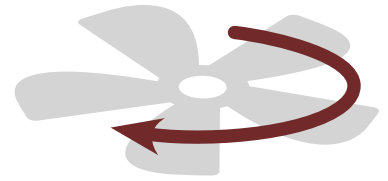


Everyone knows they should do this, but not many people actually do. Gutters fill up with leaves and debris in the fall, and they will need to be cleaned several times before it snows. Uncleaned, this debris will obstruct the flow of water through your gutters. Trapped water will freeze as temperatures drop creating ice dams and water and shingle damage to your home.

3 DISCONNECT EXTERIOR GARDEN HOSES

Just like the exterior sump hoses, exterior garden hoses will freeze in cold temperatures. If left connected, ice will fill the hose, break the spigot and burst your pipes. Be sure to disconnect your hoses, turn the water off and drain the pipes.

6 OPERATE CEILING FANS IN A CLOCKWISE DIRECTION



Many ceiling fans can be reversed for summer and winter use. Now is the time to make sure your fan is running in a clockwise direction. This will create a gentle updraft, pulling cool air up from the floor and

forcing warm air down from the ceiling, helping your room feel warmer and more comfortable in the winter months.

4 DISCONNECT EXTERIOR SUMP PUMP HOSE



Before a hard frost, disconnect the flexible sump pump discharge hose from your house. This hose will freeze as it gets colder outside, plugging the hose and blocking water from pumping out, creating water damage and causing your sump pump to overheat and burn out.

If you have a diverter valve in your basement, now is the time to switch it to pump directly into your sanitary sewer system. Please check your city's seasonal waiver policy for service dates in your area.

2 WINTERIZE YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Call your lawn irrigation company to have your irrigation system winterized. Failing to do so will cause ice damage and you might find yourself replacing your system in the spring.

1 SERVICE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM

Residential heating systems need to be serviced every 1-2 years. Maintenance is key to keeping your system running reliably and efficiently. Don't wait until you have a problem!

Be on top of things, make sure your home is properly winterized, and you'll save yourself a lot of hassle and money over the winter into next spring.

PROTECT YOUR HOME. PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT.



WINTER REMINDERS ✓

- Install a programmable thermostat
- Start your home's ventilation system
- Open blinds during the day to prevent condensation
- Install interior plastic treatment on drafty windows
- Make sure weatherstripping on doors and windows are efficient

- Latch all windows for a tight seal
- Clean your chimney if you will be using your wood burning fireplace

- Check your home for radon
- Insulate water lines in unheated areas
- Remove branches around overhead powerlines
- Replace batteries in smoke detectors
- Replace batteries in carbon monoxide detectors
- Start up and make sure your snowblower works before the first snowfall



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