

## 10 Winter Safety Tips

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*Winter storms can last from a few hours to several days and can include low temperatures, strong winds, ice, sleet, and freezing rain. Winter weather and severe storm conditions can cause major damage to your homes and vehicles. Below are some tips to help prepare for winter weather and to keep yourself, your family, and your home safe!*

1. Clear drains and gutters of debris to avoid blockage, which could create water overflow that can cause damage on both the interior and exterior of your home.
2. Be sure that melting snow is flowing **AWAY** from the home. Melting snow water should drain at least five feet away from your home.
3. Do not pile snow up against the home, melting snow is water waiting to leak into your home.
4. Seal cracks and gaps outside of the home to prevent leaks and cold air from entering the home.
5. Be sure to remove excess snow from the roof to prevent ice dams and roof leaks.
6. Trim tree branches to prevent property damage.
7. Bring pets inside. Dogs and cats should be kept indoors during cold winter months.
8. Make sure your car is winter-weather ready by checking your tires, maintaining oil changes, getting a battery inspection, and keeping your gas tank more than half full.
9. Make a winter weather emergency kit for traveling that includes jumper cables, flashlights, bottled water, blankets, and a snow scraper.
10. Always keep a fully stocked first aid kit in your home and vehicle.

