



10 easy steps to **winterize** your **vacant home**

1 **Cut Off the Water Supply**

Use the main valve to shut off the water supply. Next, run all the faucets inside and outside of your home to empty all the water that may be in the pipes.

2 **Set or Empty Your Water Heater**

Set your water heater to vacation mode, or drain the tank and shut down the power before you leave.

3 **Drain Your Septic System**

Plan on draining your septic tank before you leave for the winter. This may prevent freezing and other problems that could arise.

4 **Program Your Heating System**

Completely turning off the heat in your summer home could lead to the appearance of moisture which can freeze and thaw throughout the winter. To prevent damage from occurring set the temperature to remain constant through the winter.

5 **Carbon Monoxide Protection**

Verify that you have carbon monoxide detectors installed.

6 **Set Up Your Security System**

Ensure that your security system is installed and working properly.

7 **Make Sure Your Home Insurance is Up to Date**

Double-check that your home's insurance premiums are paid in full before leaving.

8 **Unplug Unnecessary Appliances**

Unplug all non-critical electrical appliances, such as television sets, toasters, and coffee makers.

9 **Remove All Food**

Remove all the food in the refrigerator and thoroughly seal any food you plan to store. This step may prevent an infestation you have to deal with when you return.

10 **Remove Obvious Signs of Absence**

Stop the mail delivery, have someone handle snow removal periodically, and program indoor and outdoor lights so it looks like someone is home.