GOOD DECISIONS - Winterizing Your Home

By Christina A. Worthington

During this time of year, many people have begun preparing for the cold winter days ahead. That preparation may look like exchanging shorts for sweaters, turning up the thermostat, or throwing a meal in the slow cooker. However, your winter preparation should not end there! There are additional ways to ready your living space for the winter ahead that promote safety and improve your well-being.

Use the following as a Winter Preparation Checklist to begin your home winterization!

Heating

- Test all systems
- Clean any debris around units
- Change filters
- Reverse ceiling fans
- Program thermostat to regulate temperatures when you are not home (if possible)
Fireplace

- Clean and check dampers
- Stock up on firewood
- Inspect your chimney cap
- Ensure you have a fire extinguisher nearby

Insulation

- Look for drafts
- Apply caulk/weather stripping where needed
- Remove and store window air conditioning units
- Seal off crawl space

Plumbing

- Winterize sprinkler systems
- Turn off outdoor spigots
- Detach and drain hoses
- Insulate pipes and faucets
- Turn down your water heater

Exterior

- Winterize and store lawn equipment, outdoor furniture, and grills
- Prepare ice melt, sand, snow, shovels, and car scrapers
- Inspect roof for damage
- Clean out gutters

Other

- Test and replace batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors
- Bring plants and delicate trees indoors
- Replace old fire extinguishers

Checklist obtained from Tamara Williams and Company.