



Is your home in brrr-illiant condition?

With the cold weather setting in, not everything can be solved with a cup of tea and a warm blanket. So, we wanted to share our top tips to help you keep your home safe and warm during winter months. Our homes need a little more attention during the winter, so now is a good time to make sure you are protected against the cold weather.

Our winter home top tips:

INDOOR PROTECTION

- Check all taps in the home regularly. If there's no water coming from your taps, your pipes may be frozen.
- Keep pipes and loft storage tanks insulated with good quality lagging, so that they don't freeze. If pipes do freeze, apply heat to the area with a hot water bottle or hair dryer.
- Check if your walls are insulated to keep energy bills low and guard against damp and mould.
- In case of a burst pipe, it's good to know where your stopcock is should you need to turn off your water.
- Check for any gaps around windows and doors that may be letting in any air, causing a draught. Seal them up using caulk or consider the help of a professional.
- If you have a working fireplace, arrange an inspection or check the chimney and the vents before using. Otherwise this can cause draughts and create fire hazards.



Always be cautious when undertaking any DIY task that you aren't familiar with, seek professional help where needed.

OUTDOOR PROTECTION

- Switch off the water supply to any pipes not being used throughout winter.
- Check your roof for any loose or missing tiles as this could cause further damage and leaks to your home should it rain or snow.
- Check your brickwork and external pipes for any cracks.
- Cut down any overgrown branches and keep gutters clear of sticks, leaves and other debris to stop water damage to exterior and interior walls.



LEAVING THE HOME

- Get a trusted family member or neighbour to check on your property whilst you're away.
- For peace of mind check radiators for leaks and make sure that your boiler service history is up-to-date.
- Keeping your heating on even whilst you're away, this can help prevent your central heating pipes from freezing up.
- An active alarm system or timer for your lights can help when it comes to deterring thieves.