

WINTER CHECKLIST: Ventilating and HVAC

- ☐ Inspect the firebox and flue system to ensure that they're clean of any soot or creosote and that there aren't any cracks or voids that could cause a fire hazard.
- ☐ Check fireplace for drafts. If it's cold despite the damper being closed, the damper itself may be warped, worn, or rusted. Consider installing a Chimney Balloon into the flue to air seal the area tightly.
- Clean or replace the air filter in your furnace for maximum efficiency and improved indoor air quality.
- ☐ Clean your whole house humidifier and replace the evaporator pad.
- ☐ Bleed valves on any hot-water radiators to increase heating efficiency by releasing air that may be trapped inside.
- Check that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order.
 Recommend replacing batteries if you haven't recently.

- ☐ Remove air conditioners from windows or cover them with insulated liners, to prevent drafts.
- ☐ If you have an older thermostat, replace it with a programmable unit to save on heating costs.
- Install foam-insulating sheets behind outlets and switch plates on exterior walls to reduce outside airflow.
- ☐ Make sure fans are switched to the reverse or clockwise position, which will blow warm air down to the floor for enhanced energy efficiency and comfort.
- ☐ Flush a hot water heater tank to remove sediment, and check the pressure relief valve to make sure it's in proper working order.
- ☐ Examine exposed ducts in the attic, basement, and crawl spaces, and use a sealant to plug up any leaks.
- ☐ Check fire extinguishers





