

Winter's coming, be prepared!

While the onset of the cold season will vary depending on your region, it's a good rule of thumb to begin the process of winterizing your home in early fall. If you decide to DIY it, this will give you plenty of time to do it at your own pace. However, if you are hiring a pro, you will need to schedule service appointments as soon as possible so that you can get any necessary work completed before the weather turns for the worse. Winterizing your home means preparing it both inside and out for the cold weather. The following tasks don't necessarily have to be completed in order, but they should all be completed by the time the cold weather arrives.



1. Clean the Gutters Gutters are the workhorses of your home's exterior. They direct rainwater and snow away from your roof to prevent water from seeping in and causing damage. But gutters can't do this very important job when they're clogged with dead leaves and other debris. Whether you hire someone to do it for you or climb a ladder yourself, make sure your gutters are clear before the first snowfall.

TIP: A telescoping gutter wand makes it easier and faster to clean your gutters.

2. Inspect the Roof and Attic Now's the time to make any repairs to your roof so that it won't leak in the rain or the snow. If you have an attic, replace or add insulation to keep drafts out.

TIP: Be sure to wear gloves whenever you are handling fiberglass insulation.

3. Check the Chimney If you have a fireplace, you'll want to make sure the chimney is clear of any buildup. A dirty chimney can be a fire hazard, so hire a chimney sweep to ensure it's clear and you can build fires safely all season.

TIP: If you don't actively use your fireplace, inflate a chimney balloon and plug up the space to keep out the cold.

4. Weatherproof Windows and Doors Cold air can creep in through windows and doors, be sure to replace any weatherstripping around them. Apply caulking to seal any gaps around windows—you can also do this for any cracks in the siding, too. Unless you have newer, energy-efficient windows, you can apply window film to keep out the cold. A door sweep installed on the bottom of your door can keep drafts out, too.

TIP: To find the source of a draft, hold a lit candle a couple of inches away from a window or door. If the flame is extinguished, apply caulking or weatherstripping to that spot.

5. Protect the Pipes Frozen pipes can burst during the winter and cause major problems for homeowners. Here are some things you can do to avoid this wintertime nightmare: Know the location of your main water shutoff so that you can access it quickly in an emergency. Drain the water from outdoor sprinkler systems and garden hoses. Disconnect garden hoses from faucets and store them in a garage or shed. Cover the faucets. Fix or replace any broken windows so that cold air can't get into a room and freeze pipes, particularly in the basement. Walk the perimeter of your home and close off any other vents that you might have opened during the warmer weather.

TIP: If you're going to be away from your home during the winter, be sure to keep your thermostat set to about 55 degrees Fahrenheit. A programmable thermostat makes it easy to keep your house at the right temperature so that your pipes won't freeze.

6. Service the HVAC system Replace your furnace filter and schedule a service appointment so that your heating system is ready to go before you need it.

TIP: If you live in a climate where there are four distinct seasons, have your HVAC serviced twice a year so that it runs well in both the cold weather and hot weather.

7. Prepare Your Patio and Deck This is particularly important if you live in a region where snow is likely. Cover patio furniture with weatherproof covers or, if possible, store it away in a garage or shed. If your deck is wooden, a fresh coat of sealant will protect it in wet weather.

TIP: Some patio furniture can be left out in the cold weather without being damaged. It all depends on the material used in making it. Teak furniture, for example, can stand up to winter, though furniture made from other types of wood cannot. When in doubt, cover or store your outdoor furniture.



RECIPE

Meatball soup

Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup cooked rice, optional
- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 1/2 carrot, sliced
- 1 celery stalk, cut into chunks
- 1 (16-ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro
- 1 potato, diced



Instructions :

Meatballs

Combine 1 pound ground beef, 1 beaten egg, 2 teaspoons minced garlic, 1/2 cup fresh cilantro chopped, 1 teaspoon cumin, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon pepper, and 1/2 cup cooked rice.

Form 20-24 tight meatballs by rolling between your palms (we made ours about 1 1/2 inches wide). Brown on all sides in a hot pan with 1-2 tablespoons olive oil for a few minutes. Set aside.

Soup

In a large pot, combine 4 cups chicken broth, 1/2 carrot sliced, 1 chopped celery stalk, 1 (16-ounce) can diced tomatoes, 1/2 teaspoon cumin, 1 teaspoon oregano, and 1/2 cup fresh cilantro leaves.

Bring to a boil, and reduce heat to a mild simmer for 10 minutes.

Drop meatballs and 1 diced potato in the soup and slightly boil so that the meatballs cook quickly. Return to simmer and cook another 20 minutes.

Salt and pepper to taste. Enjoy warm topped with some fresh parsley (if desired).

If you have a delicious dish that you would like to see published in the newsletter please send it to customerservice@wyogas.com and we will choose one each month to publish.

Community Calendar

Thermopolis

November – BINGO HSC Senior Citizen Center Bingo Every Saturday at 6pm HSC 206 Senior Ave.

November – Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class at the Armory. Kids ages 7+ & Adults FREE. No gear required. For info contact Bradyn @ 307-921-0089 Every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday. Kids: 5:30 - 6:30pm Adults: 5:30 - 7pm.

Basin

Nov 5th BINGO Games-Fun-Prizes! Doors open at 6pm tickets \$10 per packet. 117 S. 4th St, Basin WY.

Nov 30 Festival of Trees Tree auction 1pm to 8pm at the Basin City Arts Center.

Worland

November Pickleball - Five days a week. Download the app TeamReach and enter the key word 'Worland' when asked. Then go to the calendar to check location and time. Or text (307) 388-0541 for more information 7pm.

Nov 12th BINGO Knights of Columbus Bingo, 1099 Charles Ave. Tickets \$20, 10 games, \$1000 in prize money, 3 door prizes and concessions available.

Nov 16th Hobby Day Handcrafted art and crafts items by local and neighboring area crafters, plus home based vendors. Washakie County Fairgrounds, 9am to 3pm.

Greybull

Dec 7th Christmas Bazaar Christmas items and more, local vendors showcasing their items. At the Herd Asp Community Center, 527 1st Ave S Free admission, 8am to 3pm.

Reminder: We use this section for our local communities. The messages must be non-partisan and non-religious. Non-Profit organization messages will be given preference. Please send the information to customerservice@wyogas.com before the 10th of the month to make the following month edition. Thank you.



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