Winter Home Maintenance Checklist

Winter home maintenance checklist (print this part)

Household: _____ Date: _____ Lowest temperature expected this winter: _____

Pipes and water

- [ ] Find the main water shut-off valve, test that it turns, and tell everyone in the household where it is.
- [ ] Insulate exposed pipes in unheated areas: garage, crawl space, attic, basement corners and exterior walls.
- [ ] Disconnect garden hoses from outdoor spigots, drain them and store them.
- [ ] Shut off the indoor valve to each outdoor spigot if there is one, or cover the spigot.
- [ ] Before a hard freeze: open cabinet doors under sinks on exterior walls and let faucets on exterior walls drip.
- [ ] Keep the heat on if you travel. Write who will check the house: _____

Heating

- [ ] Book the furnace, boiler or heat pump service: _____ (date)
- [ ] Replace or clean the furnace filter as the manufacturer directs; next check: _____
- [ ] Keep vents, radiators and baseboard heaters clear of furniture and curtains.
- [ ] Fireplace or wood stove: chimney or flue inspected this year? _____
- [ ] Never heat the home with a gas oven or stovetop.

Alarms and safety

- [ ] Test every smoke alarm; replace batteries as the manufacturer directs.
- [ ] Test every carbon monoxide alarm. Check the date on each one against the manufacturer's replacement date.
- [ ] Confirm there is a CO alarm on every level and near sleeping areas.
- [ ] Flashlights and spare batteries in a known place; phone numbers for the plumber, heating service and electric utility written down: _____

Gutters, roof and outside

- [ ] Clear gutters and downspouts; check that water drains away from the foundation.
- [ ] Look over the roof from the ground for missing or lifted shingles. Do not climb on a cold or wet roof.
- [ ] Seal drafts around doors and windows with weather stripping or caulk.
- [ ] Trim branches that could fall on the house or power lines in an ice storm, or schedule a professional.

Records

- [ ] Write the service date and filter size in your household records.
- [ ] Note any repair found today and who will do it: _____