



## Winter Storm Recovery Checklist

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- **01. Frozen Pipes:** Stop any leaks as quickly as possible by turning off the main water supply to the house. If water isn't coming out of the faucet, leave the tap open to avoid a pressure buildup. Slowly melt any ice blockages by using a space heater, and call a plumber if necessary.
- **02. Electricity:** If your electrical systems have been exposed to water, have an electrician inspect it before use. Remember that you shouldn't enter a flooded home because of the risk of electrical shock. An electrician needs to completely disconnect the home to avoid issues where a live current could be electrifying floodwaters.
- **03. Water Damage:** When it's safe to do so, quickly remove water from a flooded basement or crawl space. By acting fast, you may be able to avoid additional structural damage and mold growth. Sanitize surfaces that have been exposed to flood waters by using a solution of bleach and water.
- **04. Snowmelt:** Avoid having a flooded basement or crawl space by making sure water is draining away from your foundation. You can reinforce your home against water with basement waterproofing or crawl space encapsulation, and having a sump pump can give you added peace of mind.
- **05. Heat:** If you lost power, you may need to restart your furnace after the electricity is back on. If you've had a flood, don't attempt to fix any equipment that's been exposed to water. Call a professional to make sure it's safe.
- **06. Sewer:** Cold weather is more likely to cause backups because drains will freeze. Be cautious with your plumbing system, avoid pouring oils down the drain, and call a plumber if needed.
- **07. Drinking Water and Food:** Refrigerated foods can be unsafe to consume after long power outages. Follow local advisories on boiling drinking water.
- **08. Safety:** Trees may have been damaged by ice, so watch for limbs that could damage your roof or wires. Be cautious about carbon monoxide risks, and don't use a generator indoors.
- **09. Insurance:** Your insurance policies may cover water damage. Burst pipes are generally covered by homeowner's insurance, and flood insurance covers damage from external water sources like snowmelt.