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## Winter is coming. Is your home ready?

November is your last chance to ensure that your home is ready for winter. New Hampshire's winters are cold and long and can be rough on your home. A little time spent now will protect your investment through the winter.

Now is the time to....

- Disconnect and drain your garden hoses.
- If you do not have frost free sill cocks be sure to shut them off at the interior valves.
- Winterize your irrigation system. In New Hampshire most people hire a professional to blow out their irrigation systems with compressed air.
- If your window air conditioners are still in your should remove them now. They are costing you money in wasted heating cost. Ensure that all window latches are locked. The latches pull the windows against the seals to make them tighter.
- Clean your gutters. Fall leaves can block your downspouts rendering them ineffective. Water that does not drain will freeze and damage your gutters.
- Consider marking the edges of your driveway with grade stakes. (It makes it easier to plow or use a snow blower without damaging your lawn).
- Protect your loved ones from slip and fall injuries by filling a five gallon bucket with sand and a scoop. Sand your walkway and steps when they

- are icy.
- Buy a snow shovel now if you need one. The selection is better and you won't have to fight the crowds.



#### Portable Generator Safety....

Portable generators are a great way to keep your furnace, refrigerator, and lights on during a power outage. However if misused, portable generators place you and your family at risk due to fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. If you plan to use a portable generator please follow these important safety tips.

- Portable generators should be kept at least 10 feet away from your home with the exhaust pointing away.
- Do not run your portable generator on or under a deck.
- Keep combustibles well away from the hot exhaust of the generator. (I saw one running on a deck with a plastic five gallon fuel can within two feet of the exhaust!)
- Turn the generator off before going to bed. Your home will not freeze overnight, and you can warm it up in the morning.
- Let the generator cool off before refueling.

For more important safety tips on generator safety, read the State Fire Marshals Residential Safety Bulletin by clicking the link below.

<http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/bulletins/documents/2012-03ResidentialGeneratorSafety.pdf>

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