



### **PREPARING YOUR CABIN FOR WINTER**

The tips below are from SMSA members' experiences and how to avoid problems that often arise during the winter months – both for those that reside all year round and those that close up their cabins until spring.

If you have tips to share that are not listed, please enter your own by using our [MEMBERS TIPS](#) questionnaire. Your tips will be added to the publication.

#### **Water pipes:**

- Install a Heat Cable. Heat cables are wrapped around your water pipes to prevent freezing and most come with a built-in thermostat and will not turn on unless it is about 37 degrees, then off when the temperature goes up. They can be used inside and out.
- Keep cabinet doors open to allow heat from the room to enter that area.
- Add insulation to pipes and areas where pipes enter the cabin.
- Keep several gallons of water on hand if you live there all year round.

See State Farm's ["Tips to help prevent pipes from freezing"](#)

#### **Cabin insulation:**

- Check the insulation in attics, crawl spaces, etc.
- Have storm windows installed and close them down tightly.
- Add weather stripping to doors and windows where you can feel a draft.

#### **Heating:**

- Inspect your fireplace.
  - Make sure the chimney is clear and not damaged
  - Make sure your damper opens and closes tightly.
- Clean all filters used by your heating system

#### **Safety:**

- Make sure you have a CO detector, and the batteries are new and tested.
- Make sure your smoke detector has new batteries and is tested.

See State Farm's ["How to Winterize a House"](#) Guide

## Full winterization checklist for closing up your cabin in winter

	1. Use a heat cable around your pipes.
	2. Turn off water valve where it comes into the cabin.
	3. Have plumber drain your hot water heater and all waterlines, then have them blow the water out of the lines with an air compressor.
	4. Add antifreeze to all drains, toilet bowls and toilet tanks.
	5. Remove all food from your refrigerator and freezer and unplug from the wall. Add a bowl of baking soda to absorb moisture and odors.
	6. Remove all bottled water which could freeze and burst.
	7. Remove all canned and bottled food from cabinets and any other food items that may be affected by freezing.
	8. Turn off key circuit breakers (hot water heater, for example).
	9. Close chimney dampers.
	10. Put all storm windows down and lock.
	11. Remove batteries from remotes controls and any other electronics.
	12. Unplug most appliances: tv, radios, coffee pots, microwave, etc.
	13. Put gas stabilizer in any gas powered lawn equipment.
	14. Set off bug bombs (insects love to crawl in to keep warm in winter).
	15. If possible, move your grill into your screened-in porch to prevent mice from moving in during the winter and bees from moving in during warm weather. (Lesson learned the hard way.)
	16. Clean your gutters after leaves are down.
	17. Cover or remove window ACs.
	18. Remove bird feeders.