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# GET WINTER READY

## NOVEMBER 2021

The leaves are changing colors, the days are getting shorter, and the nights are turning cooler. Soon enough, winter will be here. Below are a few things to keep in mind to help you get ready for the cold months ahead:

- **Clean Your Gutters**

After all the leaves have fallen and the trees are bare, it is a good time to clean the gutters. Making sure the gutters are clear of debris will allow runoff to flow freely and help to keep water from building up and causing damage to the exterior and interior of your home.

- **Cut Back Tree Branches**

Snow and ice can be very damaging to even the healthiest of tree branches. The added weight can cause these branches to break. It is a good idea to prune branches that overhang your house or other structures. That way, if the branches do break off, they are not falling on your roof, or your neighbor's roof, causing damage.

- **Winterize Your Pipes**

Keeping the pipes in your home warm as the temperatures begin to drop is very important to help avoid the costly mess of them freezing and bursting. You will want to make sure you cover and insulate any exposed pipes and fix any existing water leaks before cold weather settles in.

- **Create an Emergency Kit for Your Vehicle**

This is something we hope will never be needed, but it is always a good idea to have one just in case you get caught in your car during a winter storm. Here are a few items to consider including:

- Ice Scraper
- Jumper Cables
- Flashlight
- Ice Melt
- Heavy Coat or Blanket
- Water
- Snacks
- Gloves