

USEFUL TIPS FOR WINTERIZING YOUR HOME

- When unusually cold temperatures are expected, close your crawl space vents, and be sure the access door is closed. Set your thermostat a little warmer than usual, as the heat will help keep your crawl space above freezing, thereby preventing your pipes from freezing. A WiFi thermostat is very useful to have, as you can adjust your temperature setting remotely. If you do not use your home all winter, it may be advisable to have your plumbing system drained.
- If an unusual storm is predicted, such as the one we experienced in December 2022, it would be a good idea to fill your bath tub (if you have one) with water, so that in the event of an interruption in the water supply, you would have cooking and drinking water for several days. This water can also be used to flush toilets. Use a pail to either fill the toilet tank, or pour a couple of gallons rapidly into the toilet bowl. Plastic garbage cans also work well to store water for an emergency.
- Establish a network with your neighbors so that you could call on someone to check your home for you in the event that you were not in town.
- If you have a generator, familiarize yourself with the operation and maintenance of it, including the type of oil it requires. It is a good idea to have several quarts of oil on hand, as they can consume oil when running for an extended time, and will automatically shut down. You need to know how to add oil! This would also be an opportunity to establish a Whatsapp group for generator owners, where you could assist each other with generator questions, or to ask someone to check on your generator if you were not in town.
- Be sure to have enough firewood on hand to burn for several days in your fireplace, to get you through an extended power outage. This may be the only source of heat you have.
- The use of a whole house water shut off device, such as the Moen Flo, which several residents have, is highly recommended. You can monitor your water usage by fixture, monitor the pressure, turn the water on or off for the whole house remotely, and Flo runs a health test every night, and can detect a leak as small as one drop per minute. It will automatically turn your water off if it detects unusual usage, and send you an alert. Check out www.moen.com/flo for more information. (You do not have to subscribe to the monthly fee for the device to be fully functional.)
- It's always a good idea to have several days worth of food on hand, especially if severe weather is predicted, or if icy road conditions are expected.