



9th December 2007

We launch our tips to winterproof your home

Protecting your home against the cold:

- Are your pipes and water tanks properly lagged?
- If no: Consult with a plumber and have your water system properly lagged
- Are your taps all closed tightly - do they drip?
- If yes: Ensure that dripping taps are fixed by a plumber before the winter cold sets in
- Do you know where your mains water stop valve/stopcock is?
- If no: Locate your mains water stop valve/stopcock, usually located under the kitchen sink
- Are you sure your mains water stop valve (stopcock) works properly?
- If no: If it doesn't work properly, it needs to be fixed by a plumber
- Do you have a light in your attic?
- If no: It is essential to install a light in your attic so that you can make safety checks on all pipes and tanks
- Do you set your heating to come on during the night?
- If no: Setting your heating at regular intervals will maintain a level of heat throughout the house.
- Do you leave your heating on when your house is unoccupied?
- If no: When your property is unoccupied leave heating on at regular intervals to maintain the level of heat and prevent dampness.

Protecting your home against flooding:

- Are your gutters clean?
- If no: Clean gutters annually as flooded gutter water can get in under the eaves of your house and rot timber
- Are your drains clear?
- If no: Clean drains to avoid flash flooding in the event of heavy rainfall
- Are your roof slates/tiles secure?
- If no: Check these regularly, particularly after storms or heavy rain.
- If flooding is likely, is your property at risk?

If yes:

- Move any valuable belongings upstairs.
- Block doorways with sandbags.
- Lock away valuables if you have to vacate your home.
- Switch off electrical supply to avoid electric shock.

Protecting your home against storms:

- Are your roof slates/tiles, gutters, aerials and satellite dishes secure?

If no: Make sure roofs and their attachments are checked regularly, particularly after storms or heavy rain

- Are all large trees close to your/your neighbours property maintained, that is, branches trimmed and checked for rot or decay?

If no: Check that trees do not pose a danger to property or to electrical lines

- If a storm is forecast, are you prepared for a storm?

If no:

- Secure all doors, gates and windows.
- Put away unsecured items that are in your garden.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Check torches and batteries are working.
- Never leave lit candles unattended

EBS HouseHolder Insurance

A - Z guide to financial terms