

Winter Safety Tips



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HEATING SAFETY

DID YOU KNOW THAT HEATING EQUIPMENT is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths?

Following NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) tips can help prevent most heating fires from occurring.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer’s instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving a room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.



Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.

Safeguarding Your Home

This issue of the Integrity Newsletter provides helpful tips designed to:

- Protect your property.
- Safeguard your home or business from winter weather.
- Minimize your risks from seasonal hazards.
- Integrity Insurance is available to you if fire or water damage strikes. Call (225) 686-1217 for help with any necessary claims.
- Call SERVPRO® Patrick Dupree (225) 753-3434 for professional help in cleaning and restoring damaged property to its original form.



MOLD- Naturally occurring and unhealthy growth

Fungi and mold naturally occur mold can add value to our lives, Excessive amounts of mold, exposure to molds may present



in our environment. Even though other forms can be harmful. different types of mold, and/or health concerns for some people.

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Professionals make these recommendations for taking precautions against mold:

- Be alert for the presence of visible mold.
- Be aware of any strong musty odors.
- Check for previous moisture problems that might have caused undetected mold growth.
- Guard against excessive humidity.



Humidity – Intrusion of water and poor humidity conditions can lead to the growth of **unhealthy mold**. If the humidity and moisture levels in a water-damaged environment are not promptly returned to normal, mold spores may grow and multiply. Excessive mold growth can lead to indoor conditions that pose a health threat.

Preventing the Spread of Flu

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), flu season can begin as early as October and continue to occur as late as May. Peak months are in January and February. The CDC recommends **a yearly flu vaccine as the single best way to prevent the flu**. Flu vaccinations are available throughout the flu season. Flu vaccinations are recommended for everyone six months or older. It is especially important that people at high risk of flu complications (young children, people with chronic health conditions, anyone 65 years or older) receive a flu vaccination. If you have questions about getting a flu vaccine, consult your health care provider and your health care insurer. Many insurers cover the cost of the flu vaccination.



Winterizing Your Home

Experts say that spending a bit of time on prevention for winter damage is the best way to prepare a home and avoid increasing home insurance costs that occur when claims are made. Winterizing your home can save big money, prevent stress and help avoid hassle down the road.

- Check for downed limbs and branches on your property.
- Inspect walkways for proper drainage to alleviate flooded or icy hazards.
- Inspect all handrails, stairwells and entryways to correct slippery areas.
- Roofs, water pipes and gutters should all be inspected to ensure they are in proper order.
- Protect water pipes from freezing by insulating and simply allowing water to drip when temperatures dip below freezing.
- Consider shutting off outdoor faucets at the main valve,
then opening the faucet to ensure it drains.

