

Are You Ready for Winter?

White, glittery snow made a surprise appearance on my car a few mornings ago. It is only the end of October, and already Central New York is waking up to December weather! This is a sign that I need to take time out of my schedule soon and make sure that my home is ready for winter.

Winter preparation is an important task that all homeowners and renters should incorporate into their fall activities. Why? Depending on your maintenance issues, it can save you on expenses throughout the winter months and, looking at the bigger picture, it can lower your personal carbon footprint. Did you know that many homes lose a large amount of heat through the windows in cold weather, pushing the heating systems to work harder than they should have to, increasing the amount of energy needed to heat the home? If you take a day now to prepare your home for winter, you can do a lot to minimize this and other sources of high energy bills and winter worry.

Are you ready to get started? I have created a checklist below to help guide you through the process.

Homeowners' Winter Preparation Checklist

Furnace and heating system

- Schedule a fall service appointment to have an expert check your furnace and ducts and ensure they are in good working condition.

- Stock up on furnace filters and set a monthly replacement schedule.

- Set your programmable thermostat to ensure a comfortable heat level while you are home and active and an energy-saving temperature while you are sleeping or at work. (If you do not yet have a programmable thermostat, now is also a good time to consider installing one.)

- Assess your draperies and shades to be sure they can adequately block nighttime chills. Make sure that treatments on south-facing windows can be opened during the day to let in warm sunlight. If necessary, consider making adjustments.

For the full printable checklist: [Winter Preparation Checklist](#)