



Water Damage Prevention in Winter: 5 Ways to Protect Your Home

Any season can pose a risk of water damage. But winter can catch you by surprise if you don't take proper precautions.

Winter water damage most often happens from frozen pipes bursting. Attics and basements can also flood from heavy snowfall. When undetected, you could have ceiling water damage, mold, and water damage to your carpet or hardwood floors.

The intensity of water damage is more likely when you're not home to catch it. So here is how to prevent water damage during the winter season:

- Install an Automatic Water Shut-Off Valve and Leak Detector
- Have a Backup Battery-Powered Sump Pump
- Watch for Heavy and Melting Snow
- Prevent Frozen Pipes from Bursting
- Stop Ice Dams from Forming





Install an Automatic Water Shut-Off Valve and Leak Detector

These devices will help detect leaks in your home and shut off the water to prevent damage. Better still, install a battery backup with it in case of a winter storm power outage.

Have a Backup Battery-Powered Sump Pump

If you have a basement with a sump pump, make sure to have a battery backup. If bad weather, such as severe thunderstorms or heavy snow, knocked out power, your sump pump can't prevent flooding.

Watch for Heavy and Melting Snow

Heavy snow on your roof can potentially cause structural damage. If you have more than 6 inches of snow on your roof, you'll need to remove the snow to clear off some of the top layer.

Prevent Frozen Pipes from Bursting

When pipes freeze, the water expands and can damage the pipes. Then, when it thaws, it can burst and flood your home fast. To prevent that, follow these three steps:

- Insulate your water pipes
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors under the sink to allow warm air near the pipes
- Turn on faucets to drip overnight to keep water moving and prevent freezing
- Keep your house above 60 degrees

Stop Ice Dams from Forming

Ice dams form at the edge of the roof, where the roof meets the attic and gutter. The heat from the attic causes the snow to melt into the gutters, where it refreezes and gets blocked. When this happens, the water can leak into your attic and cause damage. To prevent that:

- Insulate your attic to prevent heat from rising to the roof
- Keep your gutters and downspouts clear so water can easily flow
- Make sure your attic is well-ventilated to prevent condensation and to allow heat to escape through the vents