

# WINTER Readiness

Winter is here! As temperatures dip, staying warm and safe can be a challenge. Winter storms can bring cold temperatures, power failures, and icy roads. Prepare your home and car before a winter storm hits. Plan, think ahead, and follow these suggestions:

- **Weatherproofing:** Seal any gaps or cracks in windows and doors to prevent drafts and to keep the cold air out.
- **Heating System Maintenance:** Schedule a professional inspection and replace filters regularly to ensure efficient operation. During a snow event, check the blades of your heat pump because the blades cannot withstand a lot of weight from heavy snow. Turn off the unit and clear the blades to ensure it is working properly.
- **Chimney and Fireplace Inspection:** If you have a fireplace, have the chimney inspected and cleaned to prevent fire hazards. Make sure the damper is working properly.
- **Gutter Cleaning:** Clear gutters of leaves and debris to prevent ice dams, which can cause water damage to your home.
- **Outdoor Faucets:** Turn off and drain outdoor water faucets to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting.
- **Emergency Kit:** Prepare an emergency kit with essentials like blankets, flashlights, batteries, non-perishable food, and necessary medications.
- **Snow Removal Equipment:** Have snow shovels, ice melt, and a snow blower available to keep pathways and driveways clear to prevent slips and falls.
- **Vehicle Check:** Ensure your car is winter-ready by checking the tires, brakes, antifreeze levels, and keeping an emergency kit in the trunk.
- **Stock Up on Supplies:** Make sure you have an ample supply of winter essentials, such as rock salt, sand, and extra groceries in case of heavy snowfall.
- **Check Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Test and replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are functioning properly.
- **Prepare for Power Outages:** Keep flashlights, candles, and a battery-powered radio on hand in case of power outages.
- **Trim Tree Branches:** Trim overhanging branches that could break under the weight of snow and ice, potentially causing damage to your property.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep an eye on weather forecasts and be aware of any advisories or warnings in your area. Stay informed about road conditions and plan accordingly.
- **Utilize off-street parking,** if available, during snow events to allow snowplows to easily clear the roads. Please refer to the Town Snow Policy on our website for additional information.
- **Check on your neighbors!**

## Contact Us

Phone  
301.855.6681

Email  
info@northbeachmd.org

Website  
www.northbeachmd.org

Normal Business Hours  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

**NB**  
The Jewel of the Chesapeake Bay  
North Beach, Maryland

