

The Winter Home Checklist

Do the practical winter jobs first. We earn the candle later.

Homes, heating systems and climates differ. Use this as an organisational checklist, follow manufacturer and local guidance, and use qualified professionals for work you cannot safely assess or perform yourself.

The one-hour winter home reset

- ☐ 10 minutes — safety: test alarms and note anything requiring attention.
- ☐ 10 minutes — warmth: test heating, check obvious draughts and clear blocked heat sources.
- ☐ 10 minutes — entrance: coats, umbrellas, mat, shoes, lighting.
- ☐ 10 minutes — living room: lamps, blanket, clear one surface.
- ☐ 10 minutes — kitchen: winter staples and hot drinks.
- ☐ 10 minutes — systems: timers, exterior lights and seasonal settings.

Safety first

- ☐ Test smoke alarms according to their instructions.
- ☐ If your home requires or uses carbon-monoxide alarms, test/check them according to local guidance and manufacturer instructions.
- ☐ Check that candles, fireplaces or other heat/flare sources have safe clearance and are used as intended.
- ☐ Make sure torches/emergency lighting are accessible if winter weather commonly causes outages where you live.
- ☐ Know where essential shut-offs are located if relevant to your home.

Heating and real warmth

- ☐ test the heating before you urgently need it;
- ☐ arrange servicing where required/recommended for your system;
- ☐ keep radiators, vents or other heat emitters appropriately clear;
- ☐ check obvious draughts around doors and windows;
- ☐ review thermostat schedules/settings for the season;
- ☐ keep ventilation systems and grilles appropriately clean and functioning.

Water, weather and the outside jobs

- ☐ gutters and exterior drainage;
- ☐ roof/exterior for visible damage that needs professional assessment;
- ☐ outdoor taps and exposed water lines before freezing conditions;
- ☐ hoses, watering equipment and containers that should be emptied/stored;
- ☐ garden furniture, parasols and loose objects before storms;
- ☐ exterior lighting for dark arrivals;
- ☐ paths and steps for slippery leaves, moss or other hazards.

Reset the living room for evenings, not photographs

- ☐ wash or refresh throws if needed;
- ☐ put one substantial blanket within reach;
- ☐ check the lamps and replace failed bulbs;
- ☐ clear the main side/coffee surface enough to use it;
- ☐ position a reading light where reading actually happens;
- ☐ make chargers/remotes easy to return to one place;
- ☐ review the room using The Home Atmosphere Edit rather than buying seasonal clutter by default.

Give the bedroom its winter version

- ☐ bedding appropriate to the temperature and your preferences;
- ☐ an extra blanket accessible rather than buried in storage;
- ☐ bedside lighting checked;
- ☐ a place for a robe or warm layer;
- ☐ dry winter air/ventilation considered appropriately for your home;
- ☐ summer-only items moved out of prime storage positions.

Make the bathroom better at cold mornings

- ☐ towels are where they are actually needed;
- ☐ bath/shower products are stocked before they run out;
- ☐ ventilation works correctly;
- ☐ the floor/bath mat is safe and comfortable;
- ☐ lighting is useful on dark mornings;
- ☐ robes/slippers have a sensible place if you use them.

Prepare the kitchen for the food you actually make in winter

- ☐ coffee/tea and whichever milk you actually use;
- ☐ soup/pasta/rice or other dependable dinner bases;
- ☐ freezer favourites;
- ☐ breakfast staples;
- ☐ a few snacks worth staying home for;
- ☐ ingredients for one or two seasonal things you genuinely enjoy making.

Change the house's settings

- ☐ exterior lights coming on earlier;
- ☐ evening lamps/scenes starting earlier;
- ☐ thermostat schedules where appropriate;
- ☐ timers that no longer match daylight;
- ☐ automated blinds/shutters if used;
- ☐ morning lighting for darker starts.

Add the pleasure layer last

- ☐ one winter scent;
- ☐ a playlist;
- ☐ a book waiting by the chair;
- ☐ a proper blanket;
- ☐ a favourite mug;
- ☐ a film list;
- ☐ evergreen branches or another seasonal detail;
- ☐ a small supply of something delicious.

Anything involving maintenance, repairs or professional servicing goes onto a separate action list.