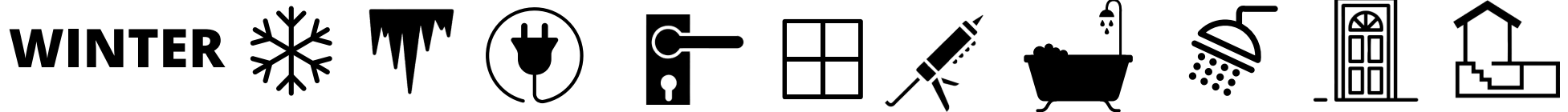




**WINTER IS THE TIME TO GO AROUND THE INTERIOR OF YOUR HOME AND CHECK FOR ANY LITTLE THINGS YOU MAY HAVE OVERLOOKED, OR PERHAPS NOTICED AND SAID, "I'LL GET TO THAT LATER." IF YOU HAVE ANY INTERIOR HONEY-DO PROJECTS, WHETHER IT BE PAINTING, BUILDING SHELVES, ETC., NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO TACKLE THOSE AS WELL.**



- 1** **REGULARLY CHECK FOR ICE DAMS AND ICICLES.** DE-ICING CABLES THAT SIT AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOF WORK WELL. DON'T LET ICICLES GROW, AS MUCH AS THE KIDS MAY WANT YOU TO. THEY'RE NOT ONLY A DANGER TO PEOPLE STANDING BENEATH THEM, BUT THEY'RE INCREDIBLY HEAVY AND CAN CAUSE DAMAGE TO YOUR HOME. THEY ALSO CAN CAUSE WATER DAMAGE TO YOUR FOUNDATION WHEN THEY MELT.
- 2** **TEST YOUR ELECTRICITY TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU CAN.** ALWAYS, ALWAYS BE EXTRA CAREFUL WHEN WORKING WITH ELECTRICITY. YOU CAN DO A COUPLE OF THINGS ON YOUR OWN, THOUGH. CHECK THAT ALL OUTLETS WORK; IF THEY DON'T, YOU CAN RE-WIRE THEM ON YOUR OWN. ALSO, TEST YOUR GFCI OUTLETS. THERE ARE WILDLY VARYING OPINIONS ON HOW OFTEN TO TEST THIS. SOME SAY MONTHLY, OTHERS SAY ANNUALLY.
- 3** **TIGHTEN ANY HANDLES, KNOBS, RACKS, ETC.** GO THROUGH THE HOUSE AND INSPECT ANYTHING THAT COULD HAVE A LOOSE SCREW.
- 4** **CHECK ALL LOCKS AND DEADBOLTS ON YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS.** IF ANYTHING DOESN'T WORK RIGHT, REPLACE.
- 5** **CHECK CAULKING AROUND SHOWERS AND BATHTUBS; REPAIR AS NEEDED.**
- 6** **REMOVE SHOWERHEADS AND CLEAN SEDIMENT.** THIS PROLONGS ITS LIFE AND HELPS WITH WATER PRESSURE AS WELL.
- 7** **DEEP CLEAN AND INSPECT THE BASEMENT.** BASEMENTS ARE NOTORIOUSLY OVERLOOKED, ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE PRIMARILY JUST STORAGE AREAS. DUST 'EM UP, CLEAN ANY WINDOWS, MAKE SURE THERE ISN'T MOLD ANYWHERE, ETC. GIVE YOUR BASEMENT A GOOD INSPECTION AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR.