

# Bullseye Bulletin

Bullseye Home Inspection, LLC  
Oklahoma City, OK  
(405) 314-3106



December 8, 2025

## Preparing Your Home for Winter Weather



As colder temperatures approach, there are steps you can take as a homeowner to protect your home from winter weather damage and to keep you and your family warm during the coldest weather. Here are the top 5 things to do to prepare your home:

- 1.) **Clean Your Gutters** - If water cannot drain properly from your roof and gutters, it can freeze and back up under your shingles, contributing to ice damming and potential roof damage and leaks.
- 2.) **Install Weather Stripping** - Old or missing weather stripping around doors and windows can greatly contribute to cold air infiltrating your home, causing cold drafts and high heating bills!
- 3.) **Drain and Protect Outdoor Faucets**- To keep outdoor faucets from freezing and bursting, drain faucets and protect them with insulated faucet covers during winter months.
- 4.) **Inspect Your Fireplace** - Annual cleaning and inspection of wood burning fireplaces is essential in keeping your home safe. Check that all fire brick is intact, the damper opens and closes, and that the flue is clear from soot and debris.
- 5.) **Check Attic Space** - Check attic space for adequate insulation. In Oklahoma, 10-14 inches of blown-in insulation is recommended to handle Oklahoma's climate, significantly improving energy efficiency and keeping your home warm and comfortable.

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