



October Loss Prevention: Home Heating & Chimney Safety

A checklist to help protect your home or property for the colder months ahead.

Schedule a Heating System Inspection

- ☐ Have furnaces, boilers, and heat pumps professionally serviced before the heating season begins.
- ☐ Replace furnace filters regularly to improve efficiency and reduce strain on your system.
- ☐ Ensure vents and air returns are free from dust and obstructions.

Inspect Your Fireplace & Chimney

- ☐ Have chimneys professionally inspected and cleaned to remove creosote buildup.
- ☐ Check the chimney cap for damage and ensure it is free of nests or debris.
- ☐ Always use a fireplace screen to prevent sparks from escaping.

Use Space Heaters Safely

- ☐ Keep space heaters at least three feet away from furniture, curtains, bedding, and other combustible materials.
- ☐ Place heaters on a flat, stable surface – never on furniture or countertops.
- ☐ Turn space heaters off whenever you leave the room or go to sleep.
- ☐ Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet – avoid extension cords and power strips.

Protect Against Carbon Monoxide

- ☐ Test carbon monoxide and smoke alarms monthly.
- ☐ Replace batteries at least once a year or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- ☐ Never use generators, grills, or fuel-burning appliances indoors or inside attached garages.

Stock Up for Winter

- ☐ Inspect weather stripping around doors and windows.
- ☐ Keep heating vents clear of furniture and storage boxes.
- ☐ Know where your fuel shutoff valves and electrical panel are located in case of an emergency.