

2012 Fall WRAP UP

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a special supplement to the **Glencoe Advertiser & Sibley Shopper** October 28, 2012

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Fall News from the Glencoe Public Library

Jackee Fountain Head Librarian

The Glencoe Public Library fall activities, programs and materials continue and will merge into winter services for all patrons.

"1,000 Books Before Kindergarten," a read-to-your-child program, continues for families to meet the challenge and give the opportunity to their little ones. The children listen to books; parents record the books read, and bring each 100-book increment to the library and receive a little prize. The tally adds up fast! This program is a collaboration among Glencoe ECFE, Glencoe-Silver Lake School District, Brownton and Glencoe Public Libraries.

The Glencoe Library has continuing services with new books and many magazines to read, audiobooks to listen to, Wi-Fi, and computers to use for social interests and research.

If there is a book one would like to read, ask a librarian to request the book for you if it is not on the shelf. Glencoe Library is part of Pioneerland Library System, which offers not only printed books, but e-books as well. For more information, go to the library website: www.glencoepubliclibrary.webs.com.

Mondays, Nov. 5, Nov. 19 and Nov. 26, the Glencoe Library will be holding a senior computer class from 10 a.m. to

11 a.m. The class will provide participants with hands on knowledge and tasks to use the computer, internet, and search practice. This is a beginner class for senior adults who have not used a computer or know very little about using a computer. Call the library if you wish to register. There is no charge for the computer class. The computer lab will be closed to the public for that class hour.

New to the Glencoe Library is the library activity room which was renovated with the funds of a trust from Geraldine Tews, a long-time Glencoe resident.

The room, located on the east side of the library, is finished and ready to use for library programs.

On Friday, Nov. 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Frederick Blanch, a Minnesota author, will speak and share stories from his book "Last Words." The public is invited and the program is free.

On Saturday, Dec. 1, is the kickoff of **Glencoe Holly Days**. The Glencoe Library will host "An Elf Workshop" from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for families to get ready for the holidays. This family program is free, but we ask the children to bring a new, unwrapped toy donation for McLeod County children in need through the Toy Drive held each Christmas.

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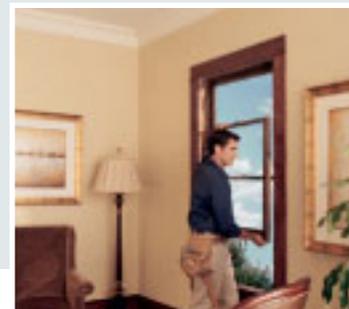
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Protecting your home against winter's 'silent killer'

ARA Content

It is colorless, odorless and the No. 1 cause of accidental poisoning in the United States. And, it worsens in the winter.

Known as the "silent killer," carbon monoxide (CO) is responsible for an average of 450 deaths and 20,000 emergency room visits each year, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association. With more than two-fifths of all CO poisonings occurring between December and February, homeowners are at increased risk once temperatures begin to drop.

"During the winter months, many families turn to heating sources they might not use at other times of the year," says Deborah Hanson, director of external affairs for First Alert.

"While these heating sources may be effective at providing warmth, they also can pose great risks if not used properly. To help protect loved ones from the dangers of CO poisoning, it is important for homeowners to take proper precautions when dealing with any kind of fuel-burning heat source."

First Alert recommends the following tips and tools for keeping your home and loved ones warm – and safe – this winter and all year long:

Protect against CO poisoning

Run kitchen vents or exhaust fans any time the stove is in use. The kitchen stove is among the most frequent sources of CO poisoning in the home. To help eliminate danger of overexposure, never use the oven to heat a home. Al-

ways run exhaust fans when cooking, especially during the holidays when stoves are left on for longer periods of time. Also, open a nearby window periodically when cooking to allow fresh air to circulate.

Never use generators indoors. In the case of a power outage, portable electricity generators must be used outside only with power brought into the structure with a cord. Never use them inside the home, in a garage or in any confined area that can allow CO to collect. And

Be mindful of the garage. Warming the car in the morning before work is common during the winter months, but running vehicles inside an attached garage, even if the door is open, is hazardous, as CO can leak into the home.

Install/test CO alarms. Carbon monoxide alarms are the only way to detect this poisonous gas in a home. For maximum protection, alarms should be installed on every level of the home and near each sleeping area. Test alarm function monthly and change batteries every six months. In addition, alarms should be replaced every five to seven years to ensure proper function. If the installation date is unknown, replace immediately.

For more information on carbon monoxide safety, visit www.firstalert.com.



ways run exhaust fans when cooking, especially during the holidays when stoves are left on for longer periods of time. Also, open a nearby window periodically when cooking to allow fresh air to circulate.

be careful to follow operating instructions closely. Also refrain from using charcoal grills, camp stoves or other similar devices indoors.

Have fuel-burning appliances inspected regularly. Arrange for a profes-

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Are you prepared? Tips for winterizing your vehicle

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

The falling leaves and colder temperatures can mean only one thing: winter is coming.

In Minnesota, the dry, cold air and snowy weather of winter can wreak havoc on your vehicle.

Snow and ice limit traction, salt causes rust and cold temperatures are tough on the engine.

Are you prepared?

From tires to belts and hoses to fluids, mechanics and car dealers in the area agree it is a good idea to "winterize" your vehicle for the season.

"I'd say the main thing is to check your tires," said Joe Kaczmarek, owner of Kaz's Auto Repair in Silver Lake.

Scott Lilienthal of Al's Auto Sales in Glencoe agreed tires are a main priority in the winter months. "Don't forget about your tire pressure. Good tires help vehicles get better gas mileage and are much safer. You have to think about safety," he said.

Lilienthal advised checking your owner's manual to find the correct tire pressure for your vehicle.

Another thing to remember when winterizing your vehicle is the battery. "Batteries take a beating all summer, so make sure they are charged for the winter months," Kaczmarek said.

Cold temperatures can reduce a vehicle's battery power by up to 50 percent.

"Also, make sure the posts and connections are not corroded," he said.

If the posts are corroded, you can clean them with baking soda, water, and a small wire brush.

Harlan Wawrzyniak, owner of Harlan's Auto Repair in Silver Lake, said it's important to also check the belts and hoses in vehicles before the colder temperatures set in.

"A good tune up is advisable for the winter. Make sure your mechanic checks spark plugs and fuel filters, too," he added.

Visibility is another aspect to consider in winter driving, especially with the increase in precipitation and salt build-up.

"Checking and replacing the wiper blades of your vehicle is just as important when getting ready for the winter. Especially with the morning frost. What good is a properly running vehicle if you can't see out the windshield," Kaczmarek said.

The life expectancy of wiper blades is one year, so replace them if your car's are older.

Wawrzyniak said headlights should

also be checked for good visibility. "With the reduced daylight now, it's important to make sure your headlights are working, and that they are clean so they work effectively," he said.

Checking fluids also is good advice to preparing your vehicle for the winter. "Remember those oil changes. With the hot weather in the summer, condensation can build up, causing water in the oil," Kaczmarek said.

He added that checking the coolant levels also is important. "The main thing is to make sure your coolant is up to par. There are all different kinds of coolant, too, so make sure you have the right coolant for the right vehicle," he said.

Kaczmarek said if the coolant looks dirty, bring the vehicle in for a coolant flush. Wawrzyniak said it's also important to check the transmission fluid and steering fluid.

"When you bring your car in for an oil change, ask your mechanic to be sure to check all the fluids. We have a 25-

point checklist here when we service vehicles," he said.

"And don't forget to check the exhaust," he added.

Kaczmarek also advised to keep the gas tank over half full during the winter months, and replace the fuel filter. "The quality of gas varies throughout the seasons, so make sure you have a good fuel filter," he said.

"Take care of your car," was Lilienthal's overall advice.

"Cars cost more than ever before, so it's important, economically, to take care of it," he said.

"Take care of the oil, the antifreeze, and all other fluids. By doing so, your vehicle will go a little longer," he added.

So, for a check list to "winterize" your vehicle, remember to:

- Check tire pressure and tire tread and replace tires if needed.
- Charge the battery and clean corrosion on the posts.
- Check all fluids and be sure to add correct fluids to the right vehicles.
- Check wiper blades and replace if older than one year.
- Check headlights and clean or replace if needed.
- Inspect the belts and hoses.
- Check the fuel filter.
- Remember timely oil changes.

"Overall maintenance is important. Rely on your mechanic. Trust them," Lilienthal said.





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Take action in the fall for pristine outdoor spaces

ARA Content

The cooling weather signals most homeowners to retire their lawn and garden equipment for the year. But before you stow away the rakes and hoes, remember that fall offers a unique opportunity for starting projects that can yield beautiful landscape results next year. You can save time and potentially money by doing a few simple projects now so when spring arrives, your yard reaches its full potential.

Every year, a lot of time, money and effort is devoted to the pursuit of a beautiful and well-maintained home landscape. According to the 2011 American Time Use Survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Americans who dedicate time to lawn and garden care spend on average more than two hours a day maintaining their outdoor spaces. While a beautiful yard takes effort, there are ways you can better utilize the time, money and energy you spend on maintenance. Keep these tips in mind when tackling the landscape during the cooler months:

1. Rake and pick up leaves.

If leaves are left scattered on the lawn, grass will not grow as well in the spring. Do not worry about removing leaves from plant beds, as they actually help insulate and feed plants during the winter months.

2. Take advantage of fall planting opportunities.

Plant perennial flowers, ground covers, spring bulbs, trees and shrubs in early fall so they have time to establish strong and healthy roots. Some of the best sales on perennials are in the fall when greenhouses are trying to close out their inventories.

3. Mulch plant beds.

It is important to add a layer of organic mulch to plant beds, which helps

roots get established before the ground freezes solid. Mulch also helps to retain soil moisture and prevent future weed growth. Do not add mulch where iris rhizomes

are planted because they are prone to rotting.

4. Maximize your equipment with accessories.

Find accessories or attachments that enhance the equipment you already own, such as your all-terrain vehicle. Some ATVs can be used year round for landscaping projects as well as snow removal. With a versatile snow plow, a



homeowner can easily level, spread or push dirt, gravel and snow anytime of the year. Some turf-friendly, all-terrain plows are available in six different blade

lengths, so you can find the best one for your ATV or utility terrain vehicle. Each blade is 14.5-inches high and has a 1-inch thick rubber cutting edge for efficient scraping no matter what project you are taking on.

5. Clean out rain gutters.

Clogged gutters can cause water backups that can damage your roof in the fall, and possibly create ice dams in the winter. It is wise to clean out rain gutters and make sure water flows away from walkways and driveways, which could ice over and become hazardous in the winter.

6. Winterize pipes.

Shut off water to all outdoor spigots to prevent pipes from freezing. If you have a sprinkler system, blow out the lines so that sitting water does not freeze and destroy the system.

7. Maintain your driveway.

If you have a tar driveway, popular in the cities and suburbs, you might want to consider sealing it before the cold weather hits. Ice and snow can damage the surface and cause cracks to expand. If you live in a rural area, the maintenance of a gravel driveway may also be on your fall to-do list before the winter winds start to blow.

With these simple tips, you will make the most of fall time to create a beautiful landscape setting you can enjoy through all of next year.

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Winterize your home in a weekend

ARA Content

Preparing for Jack Frost's arrival can send a shiver down any homeowner's spine. A long to-do list for getting your home ready can feel overwhelming, leaving you wondering where you will find the time and resources. But, with some optimism, easy tips and access to a few rental tools, you can winterize your home in just one weekend, leaving plenty of time to enjoy autumn's splendor.

Prepare your lawn and landscaping

Cold temperatures cause grass and other plants in your landscape to go dormant. Spend a few hours preparing your lawn for beautiful greenery next year.

Start by aerating. Renting an aerator is a cost-effective and efficient way to reduce thatch and provide extra space in the soil for water and oxygen to reach the roots. Find a local rental store near you.

After aerating, spread a quality winter fertilizer to give your grass the nutrients

it needs to grow strong. If you live in an area with harsh winters, remember to cover roses and delicate perennials so that they are protected.

Winterize your deck

The harsh winter elements can take a

major toll on decking, so it is important to protect it. With a little time and effort, your deck will make it through winter unscathed and ready for outdoor fun in spring.

To keep the structure's integrity intact and wood looking beautiful, clean and seal your deck before winter arrives. Start by renting a pressure washer at your local rental store. The trained rental associate will give you guidance on safe and efficient operation of the pressure washer. After you clean your deck, let it dry completely and then apply paint or sealant.

Trim your trees

Weak trees and dead branches can break and fall during winter, possibly damaging your home, your car, a utility line, or worse. Be a responsible homeowner and cut weak or dead branches in the fall so you do not have to worry.

A chainsaw is the easiest way to deal with dead branches and will take much less time than hand sawing. You can rent a chainsaw to cut the wood into small logs or pieces for disposing of properly. Chippers can also be rented for grinding up the wood and using it for mulch in the spring.

Seal windows and doors

When temperatures drop, the small leaks in windows and doors become apparent. Avoid a chilly house and high energy bills by caulking your windows and weather stripping doors.



Weather stripping is cheap and easy. Apply the adhesive strip between the door and frame for a tight seal that limits the amount of air that enters or exits when the door is closed. Caulking windows is a simple process as well when you have a caulk gun. If you need a tall ladder to reach second story windows, consider renting it since you will likely use it infrequently. While you have the ladder, clean your gutters of leaves and other debris that can cause backups and ice dams.

All you need is one weekend to prepare your home and yard for the cold weather ahead. Plus you will get to enjoy the crisp autumn air while you get these quick and easy chores done.

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Crow River Sno Pro's gearing up for winter

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

Winter is a season where staying indoors and drinking hot cocoa count as hobbies, but for those looking for more adventure, consider joining the Crow River Sno Pro's snowmobile club.

Founded in October of 1986, Crow River Sno Pro's consists of a group of snowmobilers and snowmobile enthusiasts who groom and maintain over 150 miles of trails throughout McLeod County, including the Luce Line Trail and the Dakota Rail Trail.

The trail system touches every community in McLeod County and connects with each bordering county.

To groom the trails, the Sno Pros use its two new groomers: a 2012 Piston Bully Trail Bully and a 2010 John Deere 7330 Premium tractor with Soucy tracks.

Members also work to clear brush and trees, as well as other hazards, from the trails. In December, the Sno Pros cleaned over 12 miles of trail in five days on the Dakota Rail Trail.

Not only is the club active in the winter months, but it is participating and contributing to McLeod County year round.

Club members participate in the local parades in Hutchinson, Glencoe and Silver Lake, and they host the Vintage Sled Show and Swap Meet each year. In 2011, over 110 sleds and 32 vendors participated in the event.

The Crow River Sno Pro's also host annual snowmobile safety training for youths in Glencoe and Hutchinson.

This year, the club is hosting snowmobile

safety training at the McLeod County Fairgrounds in Hutchinson Monday, Nov. 26, through Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Snowmobile safety training also will be held at the Glencoe-Silver Lake High School on Dec. 4 and Dec. 6, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The club also works to volunteer throughout local communities, as well as make donations to local organizations.

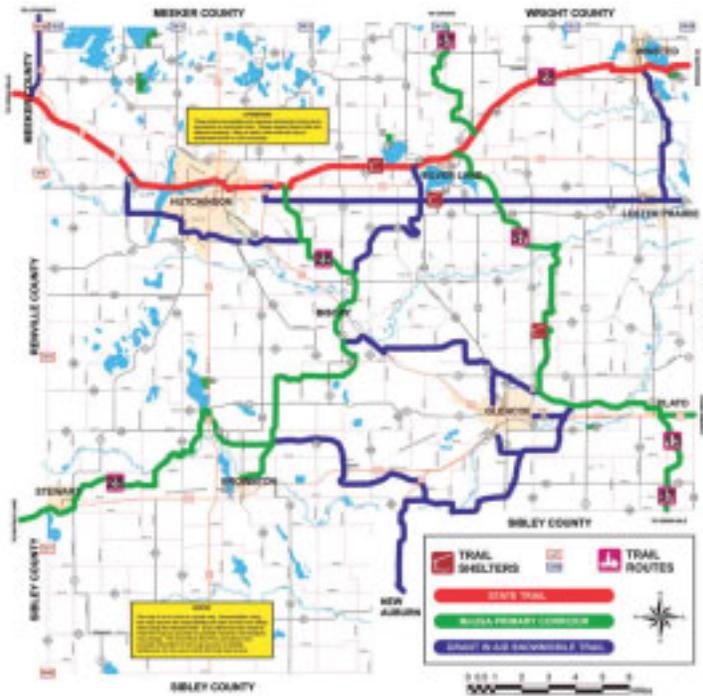
Just last year, the Crow River Sno Pro's donated funds to the literacy improvement program at Lakeside Elementary School in Silver Lake.

The club is always looking for new members. Memberships are valid from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31 each year, and dues are \$20 per year.

To apply, download the membership form at www.crowriversnopros.com or e-mail crowriversnopros@crowriver.snopros.com.

For more information on snowmobile safety training, call 320-587-6882 or e-mail at training@crowriversnopros.com

Club meetings are held at the Major Avenue Hunt Club every first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.



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Hunting is becoming more of a family activity

By Lori Copley
Staff Writer

Fall is here, and with it comes two common sights — farmers busily harvesting soybeans and corn, and orange-clad hunters in fields and woods tracking deer, pheasants, ducks, geese and other prey.

Hunting was once a male-dominated sport, but that isn't the case any more, says Janette Goettl of rural Brownnton.

An avid hunter, Goettl also is certified as a gun and hunting safety trainer, as well as a bow-hunting trainer, by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Each spring, Goettl offers classes in both, with her gun safety classes geared specifically for women.

Goettl wasn't an active hunter as a youth. Her love of hunting developed at about the age of 25, when she was dating someone who was an avid hunter. She has now been hunting for about half of her adult life.

Goettl started hunting deer and pheasants, then goose and ducks. Later, she added bear, antelope, elk, coyotes and wild turkey to her hunting activities.

Goettl took a gun safety class from Kermit Terlinden of Glencoe, who then encouraged her, and helped her become a certified trainer. She has been offering classes for a dozen years now.

She began offering classes for women, many of whom just wanted to learn gun safety because there are firearms in their homes.

As they become more comfortable with firearms, many of those women turned to hunting. Goettl said the

thing together, just like fathers and sons."

In fact, said Goettl, hunting has be-

Goettl. "It doesn't matter how big you are, as long as you have a gun you're comfortable with."

The same goes for bows. And once a deer or other large animal is shot, most hunters are willing to help each other in getting it out of the field.

Goettl said there is much to be enjoyed in hunting. When she first started hunting herself, the joy was in harvesting a deer or pheasant.

Now, she said, what is most enjoyable is getting outside.

"It's peaceful," said Goettl. "You get away from the crazy life you lead. You see birds and squirrels and you can watch the world come to life early in the morning."

Goettl stresses one important thing about hunting, though — sign up early for gun safety classes. Although there are some fall courses, many classes are offered in the spring, because instructors also are hunters who want to be out in the fields themselves in the fall. People shouldn't call an instructor a week before the hunting season opens and expect to get a certificate, Goettl said.

Hunters also can take on-line courses, but that isn't something Goettl advocates. She feels strongly that personal, hands-on classes offer the most for new hunters.

The Minnesota DNR's website lists classes and instructors by county. To find courses in the area, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/firearms/index.html.



Submitted photo
Janette Goettl with a 120-pound bear she shot near Pine River a couple of years ago. An avid hunter, Goettl also offers gun-safety and bow-hunting classes.

classes are not only about gun safety, but have a field component in which new hunters learn about hunting safety.

"We crawl in and out of deer stands and blinds, so they get a taste of what it's like to be out in the field," said Goettl.

Goettl's classes attract not just women, but younger girls.

"We've been adding more moms and daughters. Hunting lets them do some-

come a family-oriented sport.

"It's become a family thing," said Goettl. Husbands and fathers, in fact, will sign up their wives and daughters for her classes, indicating that males are welcoming their female counterparts to the once male-dominated sport.

And women are taking to the sport, especially when they discover they don't need to be big and brawny to hunt.

"Anyone can shoot a gun," said

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Why fall is the time to tackle invasive plant problems

ARA Content

The crisp days of fall will soon be here, but a long dry summer has left many homeowners looking out on lawns and gardens overtaken with invasive weeds and vines. A yard full of these noxious plants is sure to make it difficult to enjoy the cooler outdoor temperatures.

In 2012, the nation faced one of the hottest summers on record in the last 60 years. With more than two thirds of the country experiencing severe to extreme drought, conditions were ideal for pesky weeds to flourish.

Weeds like dandelions, crabgrass and clover easily tolerate hot temperatures and dry soil, overtaking lawns and gardens and lingering throughout the cooler fall months. Ivy and other aggressive vines thrive in the summer heat, climbing and covering bushes and trees and ultimately killing the plants underneath with their shade.

Left untreated, invasive plants can quickly become health and safety hazards. Kudzu can grow up to a foot per day, causing tree limbs to break under its weight, damaging homes and outdoor living spaces. Common grass weeds like nettles and thistles sting and prick the skin, and contact with dangerous plants like poi-

son oak, ivy and sumac cause moderate to severe allergic reactions in almost all people.

from lawns and gardens so that those spaces can be enjoyed throughout the cool fall months," says Aaron Hobbs,

ers, formulators and distributors of pesticide and fertilizer products.

"This is the best time of year to eliminate invasive plants," Hobbs adds. "Weeds move the products of photosynthesis like water, glucose and oxygen to their roots for winter food storage in the fall, enabling the roots to soak up herbicides as well." Two to three treatments are usually all that is needed to completely destroy these types of plants.

Effective herbicide options exist for every type of weed and vine. The Environmental Protection Agency rigorously tests herbicides for potential human health and environmental impact before they can be registered and sold for use. As with all pesticides, users should always read labels and use and store products accordingly.

With just one or two follow-up treatments after an initial fall herbicide application, invasive plants are eradicated at the root, and people can take back their lawns and gardens to enjoy the beauty of fall.



Poison ivy.

"Fall herbicide treatments are the most effective way to eliminate unattractive and potentially harmful plants

president of RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), a national organization representing the manufactur-

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Stay warm this winter: home heating tips for tricky spaces

ARA Content

When cold winds blow, it can be tricky to keep different rooms throughout your home at the right temperature – especially if you have old and drafty windows, tight spaces or room additions to work around. It can also be challenging to ensure economical comfort without having to do a major heating system overhaul. Yet there are easy and flexible ways to heat your home in areas where it needs it most and still stay comfortable all winter long.

Odd-shaped rooms in older homes, additions such as sunrooms and bonus rooms, and far-flung spaces like remodeled basements and attics can pose a heating challenge. In addition, some homes have no ductwork heating system, making it impractical or expensive to consider installing one to heat such spaces. If this sounds like your house, consider these tips to keep your home warm this winter.

Go ductless with room-by-room heating

A ductless heating system can provide comfort where you want it, when you want it. For example, certain companies offer ductless split systems that can be retrofitted to a house that has no ductwork, or if the central heating system is already at capacity. Advantages of these systems include their small size and flexibility for heating and cooling individual rooms.

A ductless system consists of two simple components: an outdoor compressor/condenser and one or more indoor units that deliver heated or cooled air. Since there is no ductwork, the



small indoor unit can be mounted on most interior walls. Mini Split Models have one outdoor unit and one indoor unit. Multi Split Models can have up to five indoor units connected to one outdoor unit, for heating rooms both efficiently and economically. Each unit is also individually controlled, for room-by-room comfort.

Add warmth with a gas stove or fireplace

Another option to consider is an individual heating unit, such as a gas stove. This can be a great solution for a hard-to-heat space, such as a porch converted to a year-round room. These

stoves give off all the warmth and glow of a traditional wood burning fireplace or stove, and can keep an entire room comfortable in the coldest months of the year, even if they are the room's only

heat source. Simply turn the flame on or off with a button, or set it to ignite only when the room reaches a preset temperature. Another consideration is a gas fireplace insert to efficiently heat your existing fireplace, a good solution in a basement or added family room.

Keep hot air in and cold air out

Some simple repairs around the house can also ensure you are not wasting precious heat. For example, older windows can let heated air escape. If you can not replace your windows with more energy-efficient ones, improve the performance of the ones you have. Some ideas from the U.S. Department of Energy include using a heavy duty clear plastic sheet on a frame or taping clear plastic from the inside of the window to reduce drafts; installing tight fitting, insulating window shades; and opening curtains and shades in the daytime to let in warming sunlight. You can also reduce heat loss by up to 50 percent by installing exterior or interior storm windows.

There are no excuses for being cold this winter. Use these tips to keep Old Man Winter and his frosty breath at bay.

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Eco-friendly tips to protect homes from pesky bugs

ARA Content

Cool weather signals homeowners to finalize outdoor chores and cozy up for the long winter ahead. It also signals pesky insects to head indoors seeking food sources and warm, safe places to hibernate. What can the smart homeowner do?

Experts say the record-breaking summer heat has created a bumper crop of bugs. Ohio State University entomologist David Denlinger predicts, "If the warmth stays into the fall, insects will continue to do well until frost comes."

Home Invaders

Unwelcome invasive pests like silverfish, spiders, earwigs, flies and ants are typical party crashers once temperatures fall.

In the late 1990s a new pest appeared on the scene: the brown marmorated stink bug. First spotted in Pennsylvania, stink bugs are now in 38 states, destroying gardens and landscapes and overwintering in homes.

"In September and October when plants are harvested and food sources dry up, stink bugs switch gears and seek shelter indoors," says Dr. Qing-He Zhang, lead

scientist and director of research at Sterling International. "It's important to break the lifecycle now so they don't survive over the winter months and attack your garden and landscape in spring."

To protect your home from unwanted pests, industry experts share these simple eco-friendly tips to keep pesky insects at bay.

1. Clean up brush and keep mulch and firewood piles away from the house to avoid creating habitats for critters and insects.

2. Seal cracks, crevices and holes

pipes and utilities. Repair loose roof tiles and screens. Inspect windows and basement foundations and repair loose and crumbling mortar.

3. Clean cupboard shelves of loose grain, starch-based and sugary food and place food in sealed containers or plastic bags.

4. Check where stink bugs hide: warm, dark spaces like baseboards, exhaust fans, ceiling tiles and drapes. Pick stink bugs off by hand with a tissue and flush them down a toilet or drop into a bucket of soapy water. If you vacuum, be warned. When threatened, stink bugs emit a foul odor so dispose of the bags immediately.

New traps help battle stink bugs without the need to touch them. Zhang explains, "Once you see the bugs clinging to the side of the house or screens, this is a signal that they are ready to get indoors to hibernate and more may be coming towards the home. A stink bug trap uses non-toxic pheromone attractants that lure stink bugs from a radius of 30 feet, intercepting them before they reach the house."

A stink bug trap can also be used in-



In the fall, traps close to your home will intercept stink bugs.



Placing traps outside in your landscape can help ensure stink bugs never make it inside your home.

with caulk or weather stripping around potential entry points and seal around

doors with an LED light attachment. It works best when stink bugs start waking up from hibernation - usually January through April.

5. If ants are your problem, try herbs. Briscoe White, herb expert and owner of The Growers Exchange, says bay leaves, cinnamon and cloves repel ants outdoors and indoors. Sprinkle dry crushed herbs around points of entry, cabinets and windowsills to create a natural barrier. Plus, peppermint and spearmint are excellent deterrents against both ants and moths.

For help battling bugs, visit www.rescue.com for how-to videos, info and a list of retailers near you.

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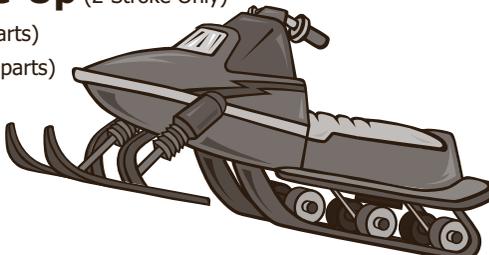


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Should you 'winterize' your pet?

ARA Content

The arrival of autumn signals many changes in the household, from switching from salads to soups to pulling sweaters out of storage to changing furnace filters. With pets, however, you may need to think as much about what you do not change as what you do.

Chicago veterinarian Dr. Shelly Rubin is well acquainted with the dramatic temperature swings that accompany the change of seasons, as well as how to help pets and owners cope with them. Following is his list of fall do's and don'ts for pet owners.

- **Don't 'fall' off the exercise wagon.** With days getting shorter – and cooler – it can be tempting to skip your early morning or evening walk. But with more than half of all pets in the U.S. being overweight or obese, exercise is vital. A daily walk, or several shorter walks, can rev the metabolism of both two- and four-legged walkers for hours.

- **Do ensure your pet is outfitted for cooler weather.** Small, light-bodied breeds, dogs with very short hair and older dogs with weakened immune systems are likely to need a sweater when venturing outside. And once cold and snowy weather sets in, dogs may require protective footwear to keep their paw pads from freezing.

- **Do not assume that cooler weather eliminates the threat of diseases like**

heartworm, which are spread by infected mosquitoes. Mosquitoes have been known to survive well into the winter months, thanks to indoor havens and protected microclimates existing within larger, cooler climate zones. For this reason, the American Heartworm Society recommends year-round heartworm protection for both dogs and cats.

- **Do ensure your senior pet has a warm, draft-free place to sleep.** Many older dogs and cats suffer from arthritis. Just as sore joints in people tend to feel worse in cold weather, so it is with pets. A warm cozy bed can make nights – and

mornings – more comfortable.

- **Do be sensitive to your pets' feelings if fall brings changes to your household.** Just like people, pets can get depressed. And if you are missing a son or daughter who has moved away to start college or a job, chances are your family pet is also feeling the loss. Spending time with your pet and giving him an extra measure of cuddling and affection will help both of you feel better.



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