



## How to prevent Winter Woes to your Home

Remember the acronym “ICE”

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While the ice and snow can create a beautiful winter wonderland, it can also be a dangerous nuisance as it wreaks havoc on your home. There are a few key things to remember during the winter that will make the bitter cold less bitter. We’ve come up with the acronym “ICE” to help you keep these tips in mind.

**I**ntake pipes on the outside of your home must be cleared of ice and snow. [Consumer’s Energy](#) reminds that, “safe removal of snow and ice around chimneys, intake valves and meters can help prevent possible carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas that is colorless, odorless, tasteless and can be produced when appliances aren’t operating or venting properly.”

**C**lear snow from sidewalks and driveways. Keeping the sidewalks and driveways clean not only means you’ll be able to get in and out of your home, but it also prevents a liability situation. If someone comes onto your property (ex: a mail carrier) and slips and falls on ice, you could be found liable. So, keeping these paths clear is very important.

**E**liminate icicles from your roof – While they may be shimmery and pretty, icicles on your roof is actually a sign of something called “Ice Dams,” which is very dangerous to your home’s structure. This website explains it well by stating, “ice dams form when snow at a peak of the roof begins to melt (usually due to warm air rising up in the attic and warming up the top of the roof), which causes all the melted water run down the slope of the roof until it refreezes as it reaches the colder surfaces at the eaves (the edges, or overhangs of the roof) of your roof. Ice dams can cause a very costly water damage to your roof deck, attic space, insulation, interior walls and ceilings...” As [this link](#) continues to explain, you can prevent ice dams by keeping your attic well insulated and using a “snow rake” to keep heavy snow from piling up on your roof.

**Remembering “ICE” can help protect your home this Winter.**

