

Turning your
house into
your dream
home

Vol. 2 #10



*Winter either
bites with its
teeth or
lashes with
its tail.*

DOING IT RIGHT

With help from D4 Construction

Cold Weather's Coming!

*Are you prepared to face
winter?*

Chilly nights and cold winds are on their way. Are you and your home prepared to face the onslaught of wind, rain, snow and ice?

It's Winter Maintenance Time

Before settling down with a chill defying cup of hot chocolate and a good book it's an excellent idea to take a look at the following areas in and around your home.

On The Outside—

- ⇒ Examine your foundation inside and out looking for cracks or damage. Take a few pictures of any issues you find. Chances are it's too late to do anything about it now. But having pictures to compare with next spring could prove invaluable. You'll be able to see whether, or not, you actually have a problem.
- ⇒ Make sure all entrances to your crawl space, if you have one, are blocked to prevent any animal, big or small, from taking up residence there.
- ⇒ Wrap any exposed plumbing pipes with heat tape. This little step can save you a lot of time, money and heartache.

- ⇒ Check all electrical cords, plugs and outlets for your Christmas lights and make sure they're in good working order. If they're warm to the touch, replace immediately.

On The Inside—

- ⇒ Make sure all heater vents are clear of obstruction. Remove vent covers and vacuum any visible dust.
- ⇒ Replace the furnace filter before turning on the heat.
- ⇒ Have a sump pump? Now's the time to make sure it's in good working order for the months ahead.
- ⇒ Now's also a good time to install a programmable thermostat if you don't already have one. Doing so can save you a considerable amount of money—especially if you lower the temperature by a degree or two during the day and possibly even a little more during the night.
- ⇒ Drain off a dishpan full of water from the clean-out valve at the bottom of your hot water tank. (Check the owner's manual if your not sure how to do this.) This will help control sediment and maintain the tank's efficiency.
- ⇒ Check the gauges on any fire extinguishers you own. Recharge or replace as necessary.



... and you're done. Put up your feet and relax. Let winter do her worst—you're prepared.

Around The House—

- ⇒ Clean faucet aerators and showerheads
- ⇒ Clean kitchen exhaust fan filters
- ⇒ Check plumbing shutoff valves by turning on and off a few times
- ⇒ Clean out the dryer vent duct
- ⇒ Vacuum the following:
 1. Bathroom fan covers
 2. Fire and smoke detectors—dust and spider webs can prevent them from working properly
 3. The radiator grille on the back of your fridge

When Winter Hits—

- ⇒ Examine windows and doors for ice accumulation or cold air leaks. Make a note to repair or replace come spring.
- ⇒ Examine the attic for frost accumulation. Check roof for ice dams or icicles. Make a note of these as well.

And ... Now ... Relax—

You've done all you can to prepare for winter. Sit down, put up your feet, grab that book and cup of cocoa. R-e-l-a-x. You deserve it.

Winter is the time of promise because there is so little to do—or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so.

~ Stanley Crawford ~

Upcoming Topics

- ⇒ Tips for Cleaning the Outside
- ⇒ Effective Indoor Venting

For more information:

If you are interested in protecting the value of your home, turning your house into your dream home or simply have remodeling questions or needs - call Mike Spruyt at 572-4812

The D₄ Guarantee



D₁ – Your job will be done for the price specified—there are no surprises or hidden costs.

D₂ – Your job will be completed the way you want it done.

D₃ – If you aren't satisfied with the finished product we'll fix it for free.

D₄ – All workmanship comes with a 2-year guarantee