



Winter Weather Safety Tips

ICE DAMS

Ice dams cause snow/ice to block snow from melting and draining properly into the gutters. What happens next? Ice dams can damage gutters and shingles. Worse, melt water trapped behind the dams can back up into your home. Warped ceilings, walls and floors, and damaged paint and insulation and mildew are likely consequences.

- First, have a professional roofer examine your roof to identify and correct any existing damage.
- Determine what the optimum insulation is for your area and check it against what you currently have — consider making adjustments if necessary.
- Check the ventilation in your attic — heat build-up will contribute to ice dams no matter how good your insulation is and usually carries excess moisture — contributing to even more problems.
- Contact a professional immediately if water begins leaking into your home to ensure the source of the leak is identified and fixed.
- Contact Electric Insurance Company® to discuss the claims process when you have water damage. It may be necessary to hire a water mitigation company to dry out your home.

FROZEN PIPES

Frozen pipes can easily burst and spill hundreds of gallons of water into your home. Here are a few tips to help keep you dry.

- Make sure you have adequate insulation near your pipes — especially in attics and crawl spaces; check for air leaks.
- Keep your home heated to at least 58°F at all times.
- Fit exposed pipes with appropriate insulation sleeves or heat tape (make sure to use products tested for safety).
- Open cabinet doors if it's safe to do so during cold spells — the increased circulation of warmer air can help avoid freezing. If necessary, consider leaving a trickle of hot and cold water running overnight.
- Install a leak detection system that alerts you when pipes freeze and there is potential for bursting and water damage. Systems vary in type and price and are generally available at hardware stores and online.

HOW TO HANDLE

- If your pipes freeze, turn off the water at the main shut-off valve in the house. (Make sure your family knows where it's located.)
- Contact a plumber immediately if water begins leaking into your home.
- Contact Electric Insurance to discuss the claims process when you have water damage. It may be necessary to hire a water mitigation company to dry out the home.

SLIP AND FALLS

Thousands of people are badly injured on poorly cleared walkways. Make sure to keep your walkways clear of ice and snow to help prevent injuries from slipping.

Helping you avoid damage. Working with you when it occurs.
Just two more ways Electric Insurance Company is Always On® for you.



ELECTRIC INSURANCE COMPANY

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102-0229 (03/11)