



SMART EXTERIOR
— CLEANING SOLUTIONS LTD —

WINTER PREPERATION
CHECKLIST FOR YOUR
Home 2020

WINTER 2020
EDITION 4



With the cold weather now upon us (for those of us in the northern hemisphere!),

RICS (*The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors*) is advising homeowners to check their properties to help stop the predicted harsh weather from taking its toll on their property, heating and maintenance bills.

So here at Smart ECS we have designed you a quick home checklist to help prepare your home or small office for the great British weather.

Properties are vulnerable to attack both from the outside elements and the moist, warm conditions that build-up inside during the winter months, so now is an ideal opportunity to prepare.

After all, everyone's home is different and the to-do list for a new build apartment will be very different to that of a listed building. But we all have two things in common: our home is our castle and one of our biggest investments.

This may not be an exhaustive list of everything you need to do in your home, but here are some key things to do to take care of it.

City & Guilds
Qualified





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Roof & Roofline

Have a look up to your roof during the day to see if you can see any missing / damaged or crooked tiles, If you notice any areas of concern then a local approved roof tradesman should be contacted to carry out any repairs safely as not only is a damaged roof unsightly it also allows the elements to penetrate and cause hidden damage.



Windows & Doors

Inspect and repair any loose or damaged windows or door frames. Install weather stripping or caulking around windows and doors to prevent drafts and to lower heating bills.

Regularly wipe any condensation from the inside window panes and frame surrounds. This removes moisture not only from the windows but also from the air which helps prevent mould and mildew growing.

Top-Tip..

Try to leave top windows opened just a little to allow fresh air to circulate through and around the house

Top Tip..

Turning down your thermostat by just one or two degrees can reduce your central heating costs significantly. Typically, a comfortable temperature for a house is between 18 and 21 degrees C, but you should set yours to the lowest setting that is still comfortable for you

Gutters & Downpipe's

You should clear gutters and downpipes regularly or at least once a year (ideally after the leaves have stopped falling) to prevent build-up of leaves and other debris. Neglected gutters can lead to wood rot problems and pest infestations, not to mention water overflow behind the gutters causing algae growth and damp.

Be sure water is not coming down behind gutters and that all support brackets are securely in place.

Ensure that water drains properly via the downpipe and doesn't pool around the bottom of your walls. Pooling can cause damage to foundations, driveways, and walkways over time



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Patios, Paths & Driveways

Clean your patios, driveways and paths removing algae and moss (this should be done before the ground frosts starts) to help prevent cracking when the ground freezes, this will also reduce the higher risk of slipping when venturing outside.



Fire Place & Chimney

Ideally during the autumn season is the best time to have your fire serviced and chimney swept, it really is best practice to have this done before using your fire for the first time. (Whilst your thinking of this we would also advise you check your smoke detectors and fire alarms)

Quick Tip...

Remember don't walk on lawns when they're frosty or you'll damage the grass underneath



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Heating & Boiler

Making sure your boiler is healthy is a great way to help prevent breakdowns this winter. If you haven't already done so now is the time to book your boiler for its annual health check. British Gas and Eon have some great online tools to help with your boiler's maintenance.

Radiators

Your radiators and fire (if you're lucky enough to have one) may not have been used in a year. It's worth testing them all out in advance, bleeding them early and making sure you're ready to heat your home at a moment's notice come winter. If needed, talk to an expert to see if there are any improvements to be made?



Internal & External pipes

To try and prevent your pipes from freezing both inside and out try to keep your heating on at a low temperature and when the outside temperature drops to below freezing its recommended to open your loft hatch to allow heat up into your loft space to reduce the risk of any pipes and/or water tanks freezing.

Outside taps should be turned off at the faucet and then left slightly open allowing a droplet of water to drip should there be any expansion in the pipes (this helps to prevent them bursting).

Top Tip..

If you have ceiling fans, there should be a switch to make the fan blades run clockwise. Running the blades in a clockwise position during the colder months can push heated air down. This home maintenance task makes rooms with high ceilings more comfortable.





EMERGENCY DETAILS

We have listed some of the more frequently required services should you need them. Keep this nearby for quick reference should you need it.

Suspect a GAS Leak-

Open windows and doors and vacate your property immediately.

Call 0800 111 999

Burst Pipe-

Turn off your water supply at the mains and contact your local water supplier or visit the "Watersafe" website to find a registered plumber

https://www.watersafe.org.uk/approved_plumbers/

Boiler Stopped Working-

<https://www.britishgas.co.uk/the-source/your-home/improving/boiler-breakdown>

<https://www.homeserveheating.co.uk>

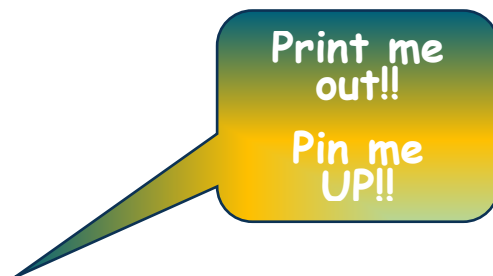
Electricity Fault / Power Cut-

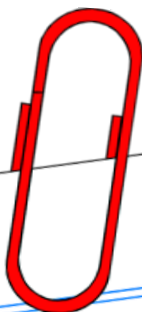
If your electricity unexpectedly goes off check your main fuse box. If your main fuse has tripped turn off all the sub fuses the turn on the main fuse, one by one turn on each fuse until either the main fuse trips or they all turn on.

If you have a power cut **call 105** first for free updates.

Put your preferred Trades contact details here

Supplier Name	Contact Number
1. Smart Exterior Cleaning Solutions Ltd	0800 471 4925
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	





Maintenance Checklist

Print me out!!
Pin me UP!!

Check your roof..

Check & clear your gutters and downpipes..

Check your windows & doors for drafts..

Boiler serviced..

Bleed radiators..

Check your internal & External pipes..

Clean driveway patio &

Paths..



Please note Smart Exterior Cleaning Solutions Ltd Do NOT accept any liability for any damage caused by following any advice give in the Winter Home Checklist. It Is advised to seek and use only qualified trades people ta carry out any home repair or inspection. Our guide is compiled to give you a reference to help you and is not to be used as a definitive or legal guide. Always use registered trades people- DO NOT SERVICE YOUR OWN GAS BOILER Contact a GASSAFE Registered firm, ONLY USE A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN (See our website for full T&C'S)