

Winter Home Maintenance

Keeping your home clean and cosy over winter

Let's face it – winter in Queensland isn't exactly a taxing time for our homes the way it is in other parts of Australia and indeed the world. Nevertheless, there are still a few things we should bear in mind to ensure our homes stay safe, clean and cosy as the temperature drops a little.

Avoid Dampness

As the weather starts to become cooler, dampness can start to become an issue, particularly in older homes. Dampness is a problem because it can lead to mould, mildew, and paint discolouration, not to mention the nasty health hazards also associated with mould. To keep dampness at bay, ensure your home has adequate insulation, ventilation and heating.

Clean Gutters

We might sound like a broken record because we are always harping on about keeping gutters clean and clear, but obviously we do so because this is super important! After a windy autumn season, we often find that leaves quickly clog up gutters and downpipes. When this happens and it rains, stagnant water can sit and fester, creating a perfect breeding ground for mosses and other nasties. Blocked gutters and downpipes also lead to water leaks and associated dramas. So, before winter sets in, give your gutters and downpipes a good clean out.

Clear the Garden

Before the cooler weather sets in, spend some time in the sunshine by doing your gardening. Weeding, pruning and watering plants is important for making sure things don't become overgrown and unmanageable over the winter months.

Take Care with Heating

Despite our mild winters here in Queensland, use of heaters, electric blankets and reverse-cycle air conditioners do still increase. And so does the incidence of fires in the home. Have your heaters and air conditioners cleaned and serviced before winter sets in. Take care not to plug in too many appliances at once, check the quality and safety of extension leads and power boards regularly, and use devices with built-in safety switches or circuit breakers where possible. Make sure there is also adequate ventilation around power points and power boards. Before going to bed or leaving the house, always remember to turn off heaters and blow out candles. Finally, keep clothing, toys, and curtains away from heaters or naked flames at all times.

By following these simple winter home maintenance tips, you can save yourself from serious and costly damage and trouble around the home. It pays to be winter-ready when it comes to home maintenance!

Sources:

- *Archicentre, "Home Owners Warned not to Ignore Winter Maintenance".*
- *Royal Auto, "Winter Home Maintenance".*
- *Loan Market, "Winter House Maintenance Tips".*

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