

# CABIN WINTERIZATION CHECK LIST

Note: This is a guideline and should be edited for your specific cabin. Every cabin has different plumbing. There are different procedures if you will be using your cabin during the winter months, or not and different procedures depending on your plumbing (water supply and drains). If you have any doubt, have a plumber meet with you to help you come up with a winterization checklist applicable to your cabin.

It is important to think through the goals and consider how often you will use your cabin during the winter. Will you or someone be available to check your cabin if power goes out and you depend on it to keep any water from freezing (water heater, ect).

The highlights:

1. In case a pipe bursts, you don't want a lot of water running inside or outside your cabin so you want to limit how much water could possibly run if a pipe does burst.
  - a. Well pump power needs to be shut off (turn off breaker or unplug).
  - b. Shut off the outflow valve on large above ground water storage tanks (non-pressurized) will partially or fully freeze, but are typically OK with water left in them if you leave ample room for expansion (10%). Note: any float switches in the tank will be frozen in place.
  - c. Pressure tank(s) need to be drained to prevent water running from any burst pipes. (These will drain when you open your faucets so no need to look for a drain plug.)
  - d. Turn off the gas or power to the Water Heater, and drain it. If you leave it with water in it and it's electric, make sure you have a neighbor who will call you if power goes out for a prolonged period.
2. Water supply lines need to be drained so they don't burst.
3. Put bio-friendly RV grade antifreeze (Walmart) in drains (for the "P" traps) and in the toilet tank. Usually there is room for expansion, but this is a good extra precaution.

## Cabin Winterization Check List:

1. Shut off power to the well pump.
2. If you have a large storage tank (non-pressurized), make sure there is ample space at the top for expansion (10%) and then shut off the main outlet valve. Depending on size, location, and temperature, some, or all of the water in the tank will freeze. Be aware that if you have float switches in the tank, they will be frozen in place and won't turn on/off your pump.
3. Open all hose bib, sink/tub/shower faucets and water drain valves in crawl spaces.
4. Either set your water heater to "vacation" or shut off the power/gas and drain it. If you drain it, be sure to fully drain your hose as well.
5. Turn the valves off after all water has drained.
6. Flush all toilets.
7. Put bio-friendly RV grade antifreeze (Walmart) in drains (for the "P" traps) and in the toilet tank.
8. Either set your furnace thermostat to 45-50F, or shut it off, if you don't want to use a lot of propane and the cabin won't be used much in the winter.

### Here's some Critter Tips:

Small critters can get very hungry and want a warm place to cuddle up in the winter. To avoid them taking up residence in your cabin or eat the wiring of a stored vehicle; use moth balls (Walmart) in places where they can gain access. It is best to seal up all holes and opening to keep them out where they don't belong. In case they do get in, mouse/rat snap traps baited with peanut butter are a very effective way to stop them. You may want to avoid the poison pellets as a critter may eat the poison then crawl into a wall and die and you'll end up with a lingering smell.