

Now s the time to get your home ready for winter

You may not want to admit it, but the days are getting shorter, the temperature is dropping, and winter is officially on its way. No matter what the season means to you whether that s embracing the snow, avoiding the outdoors altogether, or taking off for a sunny destination winter-proofing your home should be at the top of your list. And fall is the perfect time to do this, as it s still warm enough to be outside for longer periods of time.

Kathy Buckworth, chief family advisor for PC financial, offers advice on the key spots you should focus on.

Roof: When was your roof last looked at? Before it s covered in snow be sure to have it checked for any damaged shingles, replacing them if necessary. Also have your gutters cleared to ensure drainage will flow smoothly when the snow melts.

Furnace: It s no secret your furnace will be of paramount importance as temperatures continue to drop, so prevent a breakdown by making sure its service and maintenance is up to date.

Windows: One of the main ways cold air

can seep inside is through windows, especially if they aren t properly sealed. Double check that all windows are tightly sealed and water isn t collecting in the sills. Ensuring windows with multiple sliding panels are in the closed position is important to avoid drafts, as they can freeze in the open position and impact heat insulation.

Doors: Similar to windows, it s important to ensure door frames are securely sealed without any cracks. Consider sealing or insulating mail slots or doggy doors.

Floors: Check for gaps between exposed floorboards, especially in any unfinished rooms in the house. If you have central heating, it s important to ensure ducts connected to floor vents are well insulated so you re not losing a significant amount of heat input.

Everything else: When setting your home up for seasonal success, it makes sense to take a look at your current insurance policy as well.

Ask yourself if you feel confident with your coverage, as winter often means extreme weather that can result in damage to your property.

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