

How to winterize your home

Last year's record breaking cold weather, massive snowfalls and never-ending winter storms caught many homeowners unprepared and with many unexpected and expensive repairs. Here are a few tips that can help battle the winter chill and keep costs down.

*Check windows, door frames and baseboards for escaping heat by holding a lit match by gaps. If the flame moves or blows out you have a draft problem.

*Use a white silicone caulking around doors and windows. (Spray foam is more effective for larger drafty cavities such as pipe outlets.)

*Replace worn or damaged weather-stripping around door and window frames. Most weather-stripping products only last a few years.

*Clear plastic film can also be applied over windows using a hair dryer to stop drafts and prevent frost buildup as a temporary measure.

*Good insulation goes hand

in hand with good ventilation, so check that your home's soffit (intake vent) and roof (outtake) vents are in good condition and you have enough vent outlets.

*Expandable polyurethane foam products are the biggest selling insulation product and can be used around dryer vents, television cable jacks, and other utility service entry points.

*Be aware that a little foam goes a long way, so be careful not to overuse.

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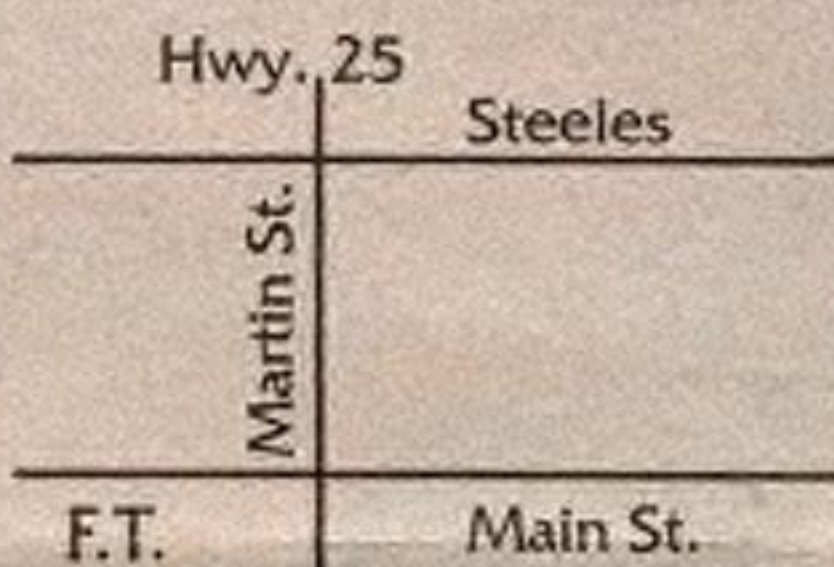


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