



Handy checklist for closing the cottage

Time flies when you're having fun and now summer is just about over. This means it's time to think about closing up your haven by the lake. Here are the most important things to consider according to Karyn Toon, spokesperson for Allstate Insurance Company of Canada:

- Shut off and drain plumbing: Frozen pipes can result in serious flooding, one of the most common cottage insurance claims. Do not use anti-freeze in your pipes – it can contaminate the water supply and harm the environment.
- Trim away over-hanging branches: Weight from winter snow can cause branches to bend and break resulting in damage to your cottage.
- Clean out eavestroughs: Make sure they are clear of leaf buildup and saplings, as this can obstruct drainage when the snow melts in spring.
- Check for rodents and remove food: Empty your cupboards and check under beds or anywhere else rodents might hide. It's best to remove them before you close up to avoid unpleasant surprises in the spring.
- Turn off electricity: There's no one there to use it, so make sure to turn off the master switches. Electric heaters are a fire hazard if left on, even at a low setting. Don't take any chances.
- Turn off the furnace and check the chimney: Obstructions such as bird nests or tree debris can result in poisonous carbon monoxide gas spreading





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throughout the house. Chimneys from fireplaces or woodstoves should be professionally checked to ensure they don't have hazardous amounts of creosote accumulation.

•Deterring burglars: Cottages can be targets for break-ins. Consider boarding-up or covering the windows and bring any valuable items home during the winter months.

•Window and door seals: Weather seals around doors and windows help keep out moisture and cold air. Check if they are in good condition and replace any that are not.

More information about protecting your cottage is available online at all-

state.ca

- News Canada



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