



# Comfortable LIVING

Winter Newsletter 2015

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**PLUMBING & DRAIN CLEANING**

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## *A Bad Way to Freeze Your Assets*

Frozen pipes are more than an inconvenience. When the temperature drops, water freezes and expands which can cause serious problems.

Damage from burst pipes can cost hundreds, or even thousands of dollars due to flooding, water damage, repairs and loss of personal belongings.

A tiny 1/8" crack can leak up to 1,000 litres of water a day, ruining floors, furniture and keepsakes. Depending upon your insurance policy, some of that may not even be covered.

Most homeowners don't know that both plastic pipes and copper pipes can freeze and burst.

Here are a few simple steps to protect your home:

- ◆ Properly turn off outside taps: Turn off the inside valve for the outside taps. Go outside and remove your garden hose, drain it and store it until spring. Now turn on the tap to allow all water to escape and leave it open for winter to reduce pressure buildup.
- ◆ Keep it warm: Open cabinet doors to allow room heat in around pipes. For a particularly cold area prone to freezing, place a portable heater nearby. During those few days with Arctic-like temperatures, turn up the thermostat—a few extra dollars spent now could save you thousands in damages should the pipes freeze and burst.

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# A Bad Way to Freeze Your Assests

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- ◆ **Protect exposed pipes:** Some water piping is located in or next to unheated areas such as the garage, basement, porch, attic or crawlspace. Insulate or use heat tape/cables to wrap pipes. Seal leaks that allow cold air in with caulking, weather stripping or insulation.
- ◆ **Stop water damage:** Make sure everyone in your home knows where the main shut off is, how to turn it off and who to call in case of an emergency. Don't forget to include visiting family and babysitters. The quicker you shut off the water, the less water damage you'll have in your home.
- ◆ **Check sump pump:** Regularly check your sump pump discharge pipe and clear it of debris or ice buildup which would prevent the water from leaving your home. Protect your discharge pipe from freezing with insulation, straw or tape. Ensure the exit is lower than the sump pump itself so gravity will keep the water flowing down and out.
- ◆ **Clear eavestroughs:** Remove debris from your eavestroughs and downspouts. Water that can't drain away pools around your foundation and eventually works its way in. Water trapped in your eavestroughs builds up under the shingles, freezes, expands and lifts up the shingles. Come a sunny day and the melting water finds its way down through your ceiling and walls causing damage. Many homeowners call their plumber for this believing it to be a plumbing problem.
- ◆ **While on winter vacation:** Don't turn down the thermostat any lower than 65 degrees and have a neighbour check your home regularly. Too many people have turned down their thermostat too low to go away only to come home to frozen pipes or worse.



## COUPON CORNER

**\$30 OFF**   
**FIXTURE REPAIR** PLUMBING & DRAIN CLEANING

SINGLE USE ONLY. EXPIRES FEB. 1/16. MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS OR DISCOUNTS. PLEASE MENTION THIS OFFER WHEN SCHEDULING AND PRESENT AT TIME OF YOUR CALL.

**\$20 OFF**   
**ANY DRAIN CLEARING** PLUMBING & DRAIN CLEANING

SINGLE USE ONLY. EXPIRES FEB. 1/16. MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS. PLEASE MENTION THIS OFFER WHEN SCHEDULING AND PRESENT AT TIME OF YOUR CALL.

**\$5 OFF**   
**BIO-ONE, BIO-CLEAN OR ROOTX** PLUMBING & DRAIN CLEANING

SINGLE USE ONLY. EXPIRES FEB. 1/16. MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER PRODUCT OFFERS. PLEASE MENTION THIS OFFER WHEN SCHEDULING AND PRESENT AT TIME OF YOUR CALL.

# WINTER BUCKET LIST

- Build A Snowman
- Make a Gingerbread House
- Go Sledding/Skiing
- See The Lights
- Donate Toys/Clothes
- Warm Up By A Fire
- Drink Hot Cocoa
- Have A Snowball Fight
- Listen To Holiday Music
- Go Ice Skating
- Make Apple Cider
- Take A Snowy City Walk
- Host A Winter Party With Friends
- Spend Time With Family
- Pay It Forward
- Catch A Snowflake On Your Tongue
- Bundle Up With Blankets
- Drink Some Eggnog
- Read A Good Book
- Wear Mittens
- Decorate Gingerbread Cookies



## SIMPLE DECORATING IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Decorating for the season doesn't have to be expensive or complicated. Without hiring a professional decorator you can still have that wow factor by following these simple ideas:

- \* Use leftover greenery from your fresh tree or gather or purchase greenery to place in vases, create centerpieces, add to a simple bouquet of flowers or tied with ribbons for each place setting.
- \* Decorate the tree with alternative items. Try using toys and stuffed animals for a kids tree, fill inexpensive refillable plastic Christmas balls with twigs, pom-poms, ribbon or sparkles.
- \* Glue silver, gold and white pom-poms or paper snowflakes on strings or ribbon and hang in window or above table.
- \* Place a few drops of food colouring in clear vases, glasses or jars with floating candles for the table.
- \* Add some Epsom salts to mason jars, put votive candles in and line the walkway leading to your door.

## CHILDPROOFING TECHNIQUES

Children are faster than you think and are very curious.

- Lock all kitchen and bathroom cabinet and drawers or place dangerous chemicals or prescriptions way out of reach.
- Cover corners of coffee tables and fireplaces with bumpers.
- Add safety gates to prevent falling down stairs or entering dangerous areas and check regularly to ensure they're closed.
- Install childproof plugs or covers to outlets.
- Don't put hard candies, food or candles within reach.



## Gingerbread Cookies

Yield: 5 dozen



- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 3/4 cup molasses
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Frosting of your choice to decorate



1. In a large bowl, cream butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg, vanilla, and molasses. Combine the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight or until easy to handle. (Dough can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 4 days, but return to room temp before using.)

2. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/8-in. thickness. Use additional flour to avoid sticking. Cut out cookies with desired cutter - the ginger bread man is a favorite of course! Place one inch apart on ungreased baking sheets.

3. Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes or until edges are firm. (the lower time will give you softer cookies!) Remove to wire racks to cool. After cookies are cool you may decorate them any way you like!

