

Prepare Your Family: At Home

If a winter storm keeps you indoors at home, there are some plans that can be made before the first flake falls to make sure everyone in the family is safe and ready to face winter's most unwelcome guests.



The Great Winter
Weather Prep



Shelter in Place Plans

Heavy snow, ice, and winds can block roads, bring down power lines, and keep you in the house during a winter storm. Keep you and your family safe with these tips:

- ✿ Stay inside if at all possible. If you must go outside of your home, dress in several layers and be on the lookout for [signs of frostbite](#).
- ✿ Draft a [family communication plan](#) and make sure everyone in the family is familiar with the contents. Make sure to include information so everyone knows what to do if a storm strikes suddenly and your family is not together at home.
- ✿ Be sure everyone in the family knows where your emergency kit is and what's in it.
- ✿ Make sure you have enough wood or other kind of fuel for heaters and fireplaces.
- ✿ If you lose power:
 - Close off the heat to unused rooms, close and seal doors with towels to keep the rooms you and your family will use warmer
 - Use flashlights rather, not candles
 - Properly ventilate area(s) where gas heaters or fireplaces are used
 - Go to a designated public shelter if your home loses power or heat during periods of extreme cold. Text **SHELTER** + your ZIP code to **43362** (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: **shelter 12345**)
- ✿ Consider purchasing an automatic standby home generator. If you lose power a generator will keep the lights and heat on preventing uncomfortable conditions for your family and preventing household risks like frozen pipes.
- ✿ Stay entertained! Make sure you have a couple of board games, decks of cards, books or crossword puzzles to help pass the powerless time.

Winter Staples Kit

Having the right supplies in the house will keep you out of long lines at the grocery and hardware store when severe weather threatens. For any winter weather prep, you will need the following:

- ❁ Water and extra non-perishable food
- ❁ Batteries
- ❁ NOAA Weather Radio or Severe Weather App
- ❁ Portable AM/FM Radio
- ❁ Flashlights
- ❁ Extra Medicine and Baby Supplies
- ❁ Blankets and/or Sleeping Bags
- ❁ Sidewalk Salt
- ❁ Snow Shovel
- ❁ First Aid Kit
- ❁ Plenty of fuel for heaters (wood, kerosene, propane, etc.)

