

Tips for Cold Weather

- Stay Inside whenever possible.
- Dress for Cold Weather



- Stock a home emergency kit. [Your home kit should include items such as food and water, cell phone and charger \(link is external\), flashlight and batteries, first aid kit, important medications, a weather radio, and a change of clothes.](#)
- Know the signs of Hypothermia. Call 911 if someone is exposed to cold temperatures and you see these symptoms.



- Check on your friends, family, and neighbors. The elderly, babies in cold bedrooms, people who are frequently outside (e.g., the homeless, hunters), and people who drink alcohol or use drugs are more likely to be harmed from the cold.
- Make sure you have working carbon monoxide detectors. [All homes and duplexes in Wisconsin are required to have properly working detectors on every level](#), including the basement, but not the attic or storage areas. Detectors can be purchased at most hardware stores.
- Never run a gasoline or propane heater or a grill (gas or charcoal) inside your home or garage. Any heating system that burns fuel produces carbon monoxide. Use a battery-powered detector where you have fuel-burning devices but no electric outlets, such as in tents, cabins, and RVs.
- Run generators at a safe distance (at least 20 feet) from the home. Never run a generator in the home or garage, or right next to windows or doors, to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Winterize your car. Just as you have a home emergency kit, you need one for your car too. Pack items such as blankets, snacks and water, a shovel, jumper cables, and sand. Keep your gas tank at least half-full.
- Limit outdoor time for pets. Extreme cold is dangerous for animals too.
- From the South Milwaukee Water Utility- If you have had a frozen water line in the past it is recommended that you run your water in your home. The water stream should be as thick as a pencil tip.



Tips from Stramowski Heating Inc. regarding your HVAC System

- Please raise the temperature in your home on Monday, 2 to 4 degrees above your normal setting.
- Take all programmable thermostats out of setback mode and set on a permanent HOLD.
- If you have a furnace; replace the filter.
- Keep garage doors closed.
- Limit opening exterior doors.
- Make sure air vents and radiators are not blocked or obstructed.
- If you have a 90%+ furnace and boiler: You must keep the intake and exhaust clear of ice and snow. During these cold temperatures, ice can build up. A 90%+ furnace and boiler have 2 white PVC pipes; an exhaust pipe and an intake pipe that are generally on the side or back of your home. In some instances, they are on your roof, do NOT go on your roof to clear the pipe.
- If the temperature in your home is dropping and your radiators are HOT with boiler systems or you have HOT air coming out of your vents with furnaces DO NOT PANIC. Please make sure that your heating system continues to operate.

If the temperatures drop in your home, it will not be able to recover until temperatures rise and the wind chill diminishes. Our heating systems cannot overcome temperatures -20 to -30 with wind chill up to -50+. They are sized to operate at 0 degrees outdoor. Put your thermostat on hold 70 degrees or higher.

- To help minimize temperature loss you can boil water, make soup, or stews; they help introduce humidity and warmer temperatures into your home.
- DO NOT USE YOUR OVEN or a GRILL TO HEAT YOUR HOME. Please check on neighbors and elderly residents during these extreme temperatures. Stay warm and safe this week and share this email with any of your family and friends.