

## Do It Yourself

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### Ice, Snow and Extreme Cold: Introduction

From "[Weathering the Storm](#)"

episode DWTS-105 -- [More Projects »](#)

Some parts of the country get hit with more snow and ice than others in the winter, but nearly everyone experiences the bite of extreme cold. It may come along with an ice storm or snow or both.

A winter storm leaves behind a lot of work and, unfortunately, sometimes "big" problems. But with planning and a few do-it-yourself projects you can be ready to weather a winter storm!



In the final installment of DIY's *Weathering the Storm* workshop find out how to protect yourself and your family from ice, snow and extreme cold!

The best thing we can say about winter storms (other than the "fun in the snow" aspect) is that they usually give us plenty of warning. Sometimes as far out as seven days.

**Winter Storm Watch** -- This means that a winter storm is possible.

**Winter Storm Warning** -- This means that a winter storm is headed for your area.

**Blizzard Warning** -- If you hear this warning, which means strong winds, blinding snow and dangerous temperatures are coming, get ready to spend some time inside.

### Getting Ready for Winter

The time to winterize is "before" the snow falls or the temperatures drop. Be sure to utilize the nice autumn weekends to get ready for winter.

- Start by trimming the branches near your house because heavy snow or ice can break the branches, which in turn can damage your home.



Figure A

- Clear the leaves and sticks from the roof and gutters or melting snow won't be able to drain properly.
- Seal up the cracks around old windows (**figure A**) and doors. It only takes a few minutes and there are several inexpensive products at your local home centers that can help.



Figure B

- Be sure to check the exterior of your house for cracks, including around the windows, which can use a little caulk. Spray foam insulation (**figure B**) works great for the larger gaps.
- And don't forget to bring in your outdoor water hose.

*Winter Storm Statistic* -- Seventy percent of winter storm deaths are automobile related. And not just from vehicle accidents but from cold and weather exposure. This is why it's vital that you prepare your vehicle(s) for the winter season as well.

## Preparing Your Vehicle for a Winter Storm

- Decide whether you need snow tires or not.
- Place the following items in the trunk of your vehicle in case you get stranded:



Figure C

1. Flashlight and batteries.
2. Snacks.
3. Ice scraper.
4. Jug of Ice Melter or kitty litter (**figure C**) to help melt ice and to help give your tires traction.
5. Small shovel.
6. Extra jacket, hat and gloves.
7. Blanket -- to make sure you'll make it until help arrives.

In the next segment find out how to save your home's pipes from extreme cold.

## RESOURCES:

### National Weather Service (NOAA) Weather Alert Information

For guidance on how to get a NOAA weather radio to alert you to weather emergencies, visit this National Weather Service/NOAA site.

Website: [www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm)

### Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Winter Storm Information

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) has resource information to help you prepare for winter storms.

Website: [www.fema.gov/hazards/winterstorms/](http://www.fema.gov/hazards/winterstorms/)

### The American Red Cross Severe Winter Weather Information

Click [here](#) for a wealth of information on severe winter weather, and click [here](#) to information on how to prevent and how to safely thaw frozen pipes.

### New York State Electric & Gas Corp. (NYSEG) Power Generator Information

Click [here](#) for extensive information on emergency power generators. This is a .pdf file and you'll need Adobe Acrobat to download the file.

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- **ALSO IN THIS EPISODE:**

[Ice, Snow and Extreme Cold: Introduction](#)

[Ice, Snow and Extreme Cold: Saving Your Pipes](#)

[Ice, Snow and Extreme Cold: Preparing for Ice](#)

[Ice, Snow and Extreme Cold: Clearing the Snow and Ice](#)