

McKean County Association of Realtors®
30 Fraley Street
Kane, PA 16735

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Winter Maintenance

MCKEAN COUNTY – While it still feels like fall outside, now is the time to begin preparing your home for those winter months.

It's a good time to check in on your house and have it in peak condition for the cold and wintery weather and be proactive in preventing costly repairs down the road.

"Homeowners should check their gutters and drainage," said McKean County Association of Realtors® President Kathy Obermeyer. "If a gutter is not draining properly, it can lead to blockage, which can cause roof damage, which is not a cheap fix. People should also begin preparing for winter storms ahead of time. You don't want to be the person trying to find a shovel to buy the night before a predicted blizzard. Make sure your snow blower, shovels, and scrapers are still in working order and have salt on hand."

Storms can also lead to power outages, so make sure to have fresh batteries, working flashlights, blankets, and a plan for when a storm knocks out the power. If it's in the budget, a generator is a great tool to have for your home in these situations.

Checking windows and doors for air leaks is another way to protect your house this winter. Cracks can lead to heat leaking out, making the electricity bill even costlier, or even letting unwelcome pests in.

"Don't forget about your pipes," Obermeyer added. "Frozen pipes can lead to bursting pipes and that's a headache no one wants to deal with. Open the cabinets to let warmer air in, let cold water drip from the faucet, and don't set your thermostat to lower than 55 degrees."