

Emergency Preparedness – Cold Weather

Prepare Your Home for Winter

Mild temperatures might lure us into a sense of security, but this is winter in Texas. Our preparation starts with a supply of water, food, and emergency supplies at home no matter the weather. Food should include canned and dried food that needs no refrigeration and simple, no-cook, preparation. To start work toward a two-week supply of food, and at least one gallon of water per person per day.

The infographic is titled "Winter Weather Preparedness" and is issued by the Weather Forecast Office in Fort Worth, TX, on February 10, 2021, at 1:56 PM CT. It features a blue background with white snowflake graphics. The infographic is divided into three horizontal sections, each with a title and corresponding images of supplies:

- Prepare your home!**: Includes images of a water filter, a faucet, a bag of Rock Salt, a shovel, a red first aid kit, two cans of food, and three water bottles.
- Prepare for a power outage!**: Includes images of a basket of firewood, a flashlight with batteries, a lit candle with a red prohibition sign over it, a portable lantern, and a portable power station.
- Prepare your vehicle!**: Includes images of a fuel gauge, three water bottles, a smartphone with a car charger, a pair of blue pliers, jumper cables, and a stack of folded blankets.

At the bottom left, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, followed by the text "NWSFortWorth". At the bottom right, the website "weather.gov/fortworth" is listed.

Winterize Your Home

Disconnect and drain garden hoses, and wrap or cover outside water faucets to reduce the risk of frozen pipes. Insulate pipes in exposed, unheated areas of the house, like garages and attics. Curtains can help keep window areas warm, and rolled up towels can reduce drafts under doors. Gutters should be cleaned to carry away rain water. Check fireplaces and wood stoves for proper operations. Consider a chimney sweep inspection of flues and chimneys.

Severe Cold

When severe cold is coming, windows can be covered with blankets to reduce loss of heat. Protect pipes by opening closets and cabinet doors where pipes run. Learn where your house water shutoff is located, and know where a wrench is to close the valve if needed. Some suggest a trickle of water at a far location in the house to keep some water moving. This does increase water use.

Where is your water storage? Might it freeze? Maybe move some inside.

Be very careful with space heaters, be sure they are well away from any object or cloth.

Prepare your car for winter

Check the basic maintenance, and Check air in the tires and spare

Always drive on top half of gas tank, fill up when ½ tank

Have an emergency kit in your car: include

A supply of water and food car

Flashlight and spare batteries

Jumper cables, snow brush and ice scraper

Carry extra blankets, gloves, and emergency Mylar reflective blankets.

Tips:

Backup lithium batteries include charging ports for devices and jumper cables. Ranging in size and price, they might be a beneficial but somewhat limited power supply in an emergency

In snow areas have small shovel, ice melt, and/or kitty litter, use floor mats for traction

If stuck or stranded, run engine 10 to 15 minutes each hour to keep warm,

Be aware to keep exhaust pipe clear of snow and a window slightly open to avoid CO poisoning

How to Keep Warm Without Power

Weather Forecast Office
Fort Worth, TX
Issued February 12, 2021 5:46 PM CT

weather.gov/winter

Staying warm when the power is out

- Close blinds or curtains to keep in some heat.
- Close off rooms to avoid wasting heat.
- Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing.
- Eat and drink. Food provides energy to warm the body. Avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- Stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors.

NWSFortWorth weather.gov/fortworth

Power Outages – Loss of Heat

If power goes out, dress family members warm. Layer clothing.

Protecting your pipes from freezing and bursting, if the house gets below about 60 inside, it may be cold enough in walls to freeze pipes. Be sure to open cabinets and doors where pipes are. If the outage is widespread or expected to be an extended time of a day or more, trickling water can reduce the overall water supply. Consider shutting off water, draining pipes, and using your water storage until weather warms to avoid damage.

Power outage tips.

Light – flashlights or battery lanterns. Some LED lanterns will run three days on one set of batteries. If you use oil lamps, never leave unattended. Many suggest avoiding candles due to fire risk.

Heat – fireplaces or wood stoves if you have one. Do not use ovens or stove tops as a heat source, or use camp stoves indoors.

Cell phones – backup batteries can keep your phone going. Shut off blue-tooth and wi-fi, and turn down screen brightness to slow battery use.

If using a generator, keep it 25 feet away from the house, doors and windows.

Some folks use the car to charge cell phones and get a warm-up. Never run a car or generator in a garage or carport, even if the door is opened.

Gather in one, smaller room, closing doors to unoccupied rooms, people make a lot of heat

Wear layers of clothes, share beds, and use lots of blankets

If you have a tent, move mattresses into a tent set up in one room and gather everyone there to keep warm and sleep, taking the small room concept further.

You may need to seek temporary shelter elsewhere, grab your 72 hour kits and go.

Never run a car or generator in a garage or carport.