



**MTD**  
BUILDING CONTRACTORS  
**Autumn Newsletter**  
**October 2020**



## Winter Maintenance Preparations

The climate and scenery around us is quickly changing as we enter the autumn season, bringing about beautiful foliage and cooler weather. The rapidly changing climate indicates that winter will soon arrive. Now is the time to start preparing your home to handle the snow and colder weather. MTD Building Contractors would like to offer tips for getting your property ready for the winter season:

### Inside the house:

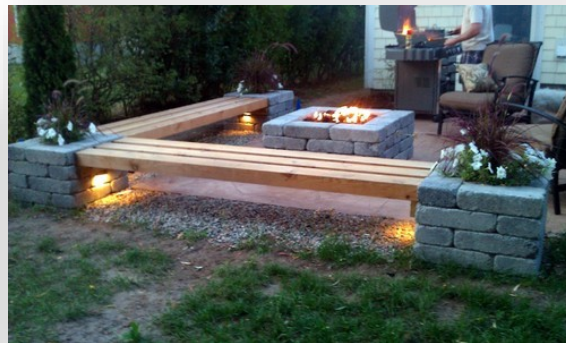
- Clean your chimneys and tune up your heating system.
- Remove any screens from windows and doors to clean, repair, and store in a dry place. Install storm windows and doors.
- Weather strip and caulk windows and doors in order to prevent drafts.
- Clean ceiling fan blades and reverse ceiling fans to circulate warm air.
- Replace the batteries in smoke and CO2 detectors—test for proper operation.

### Outside the house:

- Clean out gutters to ensure that no ice dams occur.
- Be sure deck, porch steps, and rails are in good repair. Set out a snow shovel and ice melt.
- Clean any outdoor furniture and cover or store it for the winter. Clean and fill birdfeeders.
- Turn off exterior faucets and disconnect hoses.
- Seal any cracks or holes in foundation or siding to keep out rodents.

### Heating:

Consider pre-buying your fuel this heating season. Pre-buying can save money if prices take an upward swing during the season. Before you pre-buy, research the company you're buying from to make sure they have a good track record with pre-buying programs.



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## Garden and Tool Preparations

Before you put away your garden tools for the winter, they should be cleaned and prepared for storage. Proper care and attention can help to delay tool replacement.

- Remove dried or caked on dirt from metal surfaces with a wire brush. Tools may need to be soaked in water first if they are especially dirty.
- Sand off rust spots with steel wool or sandpaper.
- Lightly oil metal surfaces with a spray like WD-40 or vegetable oil.
- Store any hand tools in a bucket of oiled sand to prevent winter rusting (add preferred oil to dry sand and mix thoroughly.)
- Sand and apply a light coating of linseed oil to wooden handles to preserve and avoid cracking and splitting.

## In The Gardens

- Cut perennials to within 1" of soil level, divide if necessary.
- Transplant trees and shrubs, apply deer repellent if necessary.
- Heavily weed beds to avoid spring weed sprouts; apply a weed spray if preferred.
- Mulch beds with leaves, straw, or evergreen boughs to protect tender root systems.



## Driveway Prep

- Make sure that your driveway is free of large holes, rocks, or washouts that will make plowing difficult. If you would like to schedule driveway repairs or stake out the driveway together, give us a call.
- We cannot plow a slippery driveway. Icy conditions make plowing unsafe for both our employee in the plow truck, and for you. If a driveway is deemed too slippery for plowing, we will have to sand it first. You will be charged for sanding along with plowing. ***We cannot accommodate any customer who chooses not to allow the sanding of an icy driveway.***
- Remember to try not to block the plow truck's access to your driveway. We know it's hard in smaller driveways, but often we are plowing during the night or very early morning hours and customers are not awake to be asked to move their vehicles.
- Remove all personal items that are in and around the driveway before winter begins. Once these items are covered by snow, it's very hard for a plow truck driver to know where they are, and therefore, we are not responsible for damages to these items.
- Patience is imperative to a successful relationship during the winter storm season. Please be aware that if a substantial storm is happening, all the plow trucks will be out on routes and not in the office to receive phone calls. We always try to stay on top of snowfall and usually have to give each driveway a quick opening plow before coming back at the end of the storm to clean it up completely.



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