

Wildflower Ridge Fall/Winter Clean Up Checklist

Ceiling Fans: Reverse ceiling fans! Switch the direction on your ceiling fan to run clockwise at a low speed to create an upward draft and help distribute heat throughout your home.

Siding: Do a walk around and look for any loose or exposed areas in the siding. Seal gaps and replace damaged siding panels. Make sure the caulk and seals around trim, seams, and flashings are in good condition. Prune away any close tree branches and plants that may damage the siding when the wind blows.

Roof & Gutters: Clean any debris off the roof and gutters, and make sure downspouts are clear. Look for loose screws and sagging and ensure that gutters are properly secured to hold the weight of snow and ice. Consider installing gutter guards if you have heavy leaves fall on your home.

Furniture: Pack up all outdoor furniture and décor.

Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Test and replace batteries. Replace old fire extinguishers. If you have a fireplace, have it cleaned of soot & creosote residue, and make sure the flue is clear. Prevent bush fires by removing dried yard debris away from the home into a compost pile or yard waste bags.

Insulation: Insulate, insulate, insulate! Properly insulating your house is the best thing you can do to keep your home energy efficient, warm, and well maintained. Utilize weatherstripping, plastic sheeting, caulk, foam board, and insulating covers to improve insulation throughout your home. Replace old or worn weatherstripping, seal cracks, and fill in drafty gaps.

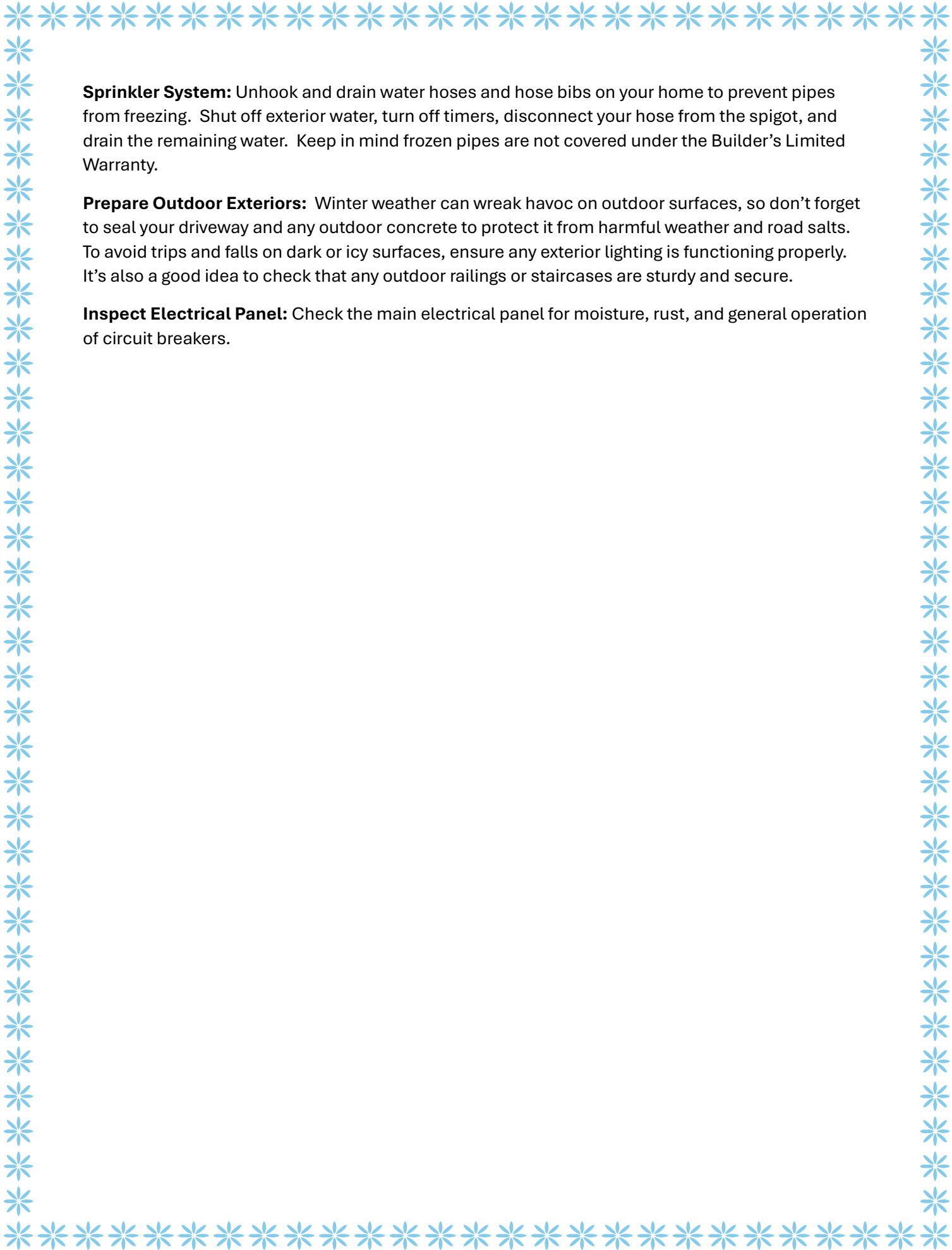
Heating: As temperatures begin to drop, check that your furnace is in working condition and ready to use when it's needed. You can call a professional for maintenance to ensure its functions properly. If you haven't already, make sure to replace your furnace air filter to improve air quality and heat efficiency. Clean dust and debris and remove obstructions from heating vents.

Windows & Doors: Take the time to look at all windows and doors to prevent cold air from leaking into the home. Look for cracks, chipping paint, and weatherstripping tear. It's always a good idea to test for gaps to guarantee everything is well sealed, closely examine door frames, moldings, caulking and weather strips. Apply a fresh coat of paint or sealant if you see weathering on the framing surface. Consider replacing old windows or installing storm windows to save on heating costs.

Walkways and Lighting: Walk around the walkways and look for cracks and uneven terrain. Tree roots can push up walkways and pavement, creating a tripping hazard. Repair issues to prevent icy falls. Make sure all exterior lighting is functioning properly and replace bulbs if needed. LED bulbs are the best choice for longevity & energy savings.

Pipes and Faucets: Drain and turn off faucets and irrigation systems. If you have an older type of outdoor faucet that isn't freezeproof, then cover it with a Styrofoam faucet cover. Insulate exposed pipes in your home to prevent condensation and freezing and improve efficiency.

Deck: Give your deck a fresh coat of sealer to protect it from the winter elements.



Sprinkler System: Unhook and drain water hoses and hose bibs on your home to prevent pipes from freezing. Shut off exterior water, turn off timers, disconnect your hose from the spigot, and drain the remaining water. Keep in mind frozen pipes are not covered under the Builder's Limited Warranty.

Prepare Outdoor Exteriors: Winter weather can wreak havoc on outdoor surfaces, so don't forget to seal your driveway and any outdoor concrete to protect it from harmful weather and road salts. To avoid trips and falls on dark or icy surfaces, ensure any exterior lighting is functioning properly. It's also a good idea to check that any outdoor railings or staircases are sturdy and secure.

Inspect Electrical Panel: Check the main electrical panel for moisture, rust, and general operation of circuit breakers.