

KEEP YOUR HOME IN SHAPE ALL YEAR ROUND.



Inside

Keep heating at 10oC to prevent pipes freezing, check there's adequate loft ventilation, consider thick curtains to retain heat and keep the chimney free of soot. You should also arrange regular checks of any gas fires/boilers and your central heating.



Outside

Get the roof checked for loose tiles, fasten doors and gates, check fencing is sturdy and secure all loose items. It's wise to also get the guttering checked for blockages and to check your trees for unstable roots.



Be prepared for anything

Create a basic emergency kit (torch/candles/matches, bag of salt/grit, shovel and back-up heating). In emergencies listen to your local radio service for updates.



What to do if a pipe bursts

Turn off the mains water supply and your heating, and drain the system by running hot and cold taps. If the ceiling bulges you can pierce small holes to drain water (only if safe), catching it in buckets. Call your insurer for further advice.



In winter

Insulate the loft, water pipes and sides of your water tank to stop pipes freezing. You should also know where the water mains stop tap is, in case of an emergency.

