



Prepare for winter

Winter means high risk for frost- and water-related damage in vacation homes that have been closed for the season. But as a vacation home owner there are a few easy measures you can take to protect your house during the winter and avoid damage.

Water in the conduits and pipes can cause frost damage which in turn leads to water damage. As a house owner, frost- and water damage is often expensive and troublesome. A lot of the damage that occurs is a result of not emptying out your house's water systems or that your indoor temperature has been too low. Sometimes the damage is not detected until after a long time and by then the water has already caused great damage to the house.

Many times an easy step could have prevented the damage, such as having a radiator on. And now it's high time for you as a vacation home owner to protect your house for the winter.

If your house is used during the winter and has water left in the conduits and pipes, then you have to keep the house warm to avoid that the water conduits, pipes, and toilets freeze. If your house isn't used during the winter, then you have to turn off the water and empty the water conduits and pipes. It doesn't take many hours without power for a water damage to happen if there is water left in the water conduits and pipes.

Advice to avoid water damage and other types of damage on your vacation home during the winter

Indoors

- Turn off the water and empty the water system. It is important that all conduits and pipes are empty of water.
- Empty the water heater and pumps. Flush the toilets so that the water tank is empty.
- Pour antifreeze in all drain traps, floor drains, and toilets.
- If there is water left in the pipes and conduits then the house should be at least 15 degrees Celsius.
- Open the house's vents, doors and cabinets so that the air can circulate everywhere.
- Arrange regular supervision of your vacation home, its extra important during cold spells or heavy snowfall.
- Pull out the cords of all electrical devices.

Outdoors

- Reinforce the roof of the porch with extra rafters and stanchions to strengthen it in the case of heavy snow.
- Make sure that there aren't any leaves or other objects in the gutters.
- Cover the chimney to make sure that the snow can't get in.
- Lead the rainwater away from the house by placing gutters under the drain pipes.
- Don't leave hoses and electric cables outdoors.
- Close all windows and make sure that all locks are functioning.

You will find more advice on our home page.



Keep in mind...

Prevent burglary and theft

Don't leave items that are more exposed to theft in your vacation home over the winter. It can attract burglary and vandalism.

Seal gaps and holes

Seal gaps and holes in the façade with stainless steel netting. A mouse only needs a 6-7 mm hole to get in.

Clean properly

Dirt and leftover food can mold and start to smell. Finish the season with a thorough autumn cleaning.



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