



FIX IT BEFORE THE FREEZE

14 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

DAILY HOMEOWNER EDUCATION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Spot the issue. Make the safe fix. Protect the investment.

PRINTER-FRIENDLY EDITION | MINIMAL COLOR | GRAYSCALE PHOTOS



DAY
1

CLEAR GUTTERS BEFORE THEY FREEZE

THE ISSUE Leaves and debris trap water in gutters and downspouts.



HOW TO FIX IT

- 1 Remove reachable debris safely.
- 2 Flush water toward the downspout.

HELPS PREVENT Ice buildup, fascia rot and foundation leaks

DAY
2

DIRECT DOWNSPOUT WATER AWAY

THE ISSUE A short or disconnected downspout empties beside the foundation.



HOW TO FIX IT

- 1 Reconnect loose sections.
- 2 Add an extension or splash block.

HELPS PREVENT Erosion, basement moisture and foundation movement



DAY
3

SEAL DRAFTY WINDOWS

THE ISSUE Cracked caulk and open joints let cold air and moisture inside.



HOW TO FIX IT

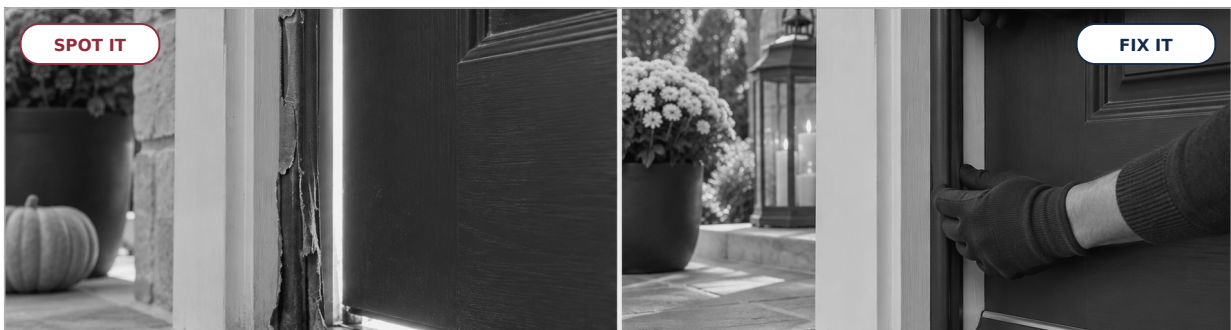
- 1 Remove loose exterior caulk.
- 2 Apply a clean bead of compatible sealant.

HELPS PREVENT Heat loss, condensation and damaged trim

DAY
4

REPLACE DOOR WEATHERSTRIPPING

THE ISSUE Flattened seals leave daylight and cold air around the door.



HOW TO FIX IT

- 1 Replace worn weatherstripping.
- 2 Adjust or replace the bottom sweep.

HELPS PREVENT Drafts, moisture, pests and door damage



DAY
5

DISCONNECT EVERY GARDEN HOSE

THE ISSUE A connected hose can trap water inside the faucet during a freeze.



SPOT IT



FIX IT

HOW TO FIX IT

- 1 Disconnect and completely drain hoses.
- 2 Protect the faucet with an insulated cover.

HELPS PREVENT Frozen faucets, split pipes and interior water damage

DAY
6

INSULATE VULNERABLE PIPES

THE ISSUE Bare plumbing in cold garages, basements or crawlspaces can freeze.



SPOT IT



FIX IT

HOW TO FIX IT

- 1 Install correctly sized foam sleeves.
- 2 Seal small nearby drafts.

HELPS PREVENT Burst pipes and expensive water damage



DAY
7

SEAL SMALL EXTERIOR OPENINGS

THE ISSUE Failed sealant around cables and utility penetrations admits water.



HOW TO FIX IT

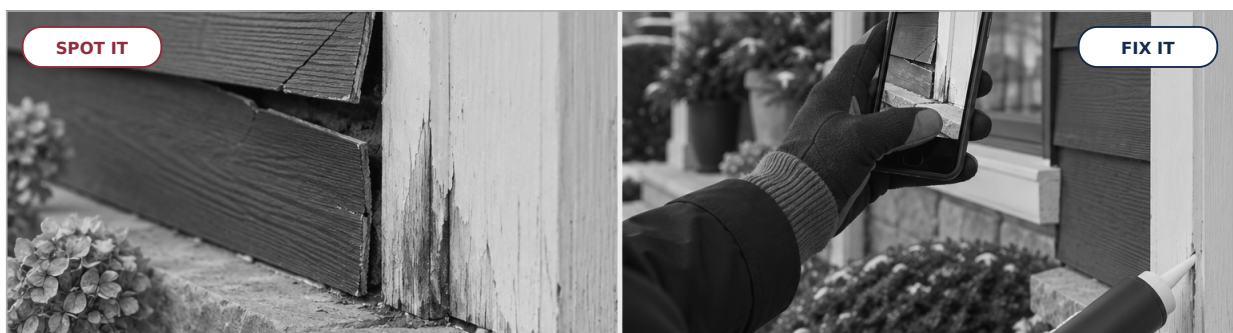
- 1 Remove loose material.
- 2 Reseal only small gaps; keep vents and drainage paths open.

HELPS PREVENT Pests, wet insulation, drafts and hidden rot

DAY
8

INSPECT SIDING AND TRIM

THE ISSUE Loose, cracked or soft exterior materials worsen with winter moisture.



HOW TO FIX IT

- 1 Photograph every suspicious area from the ground.
- 2 Repair damage early; seal only minor trim gaps.

HELPS PREVENT Mold, wet insulation and larger wall repairs



DAY
9

STOP HEAT LOSS AT THE ATTIC ACCESS

THE ISSUE An unsealed attic hatch allows warm air to escape into the attic.



HOW TO FIX IT

- 1 Weatherstrip the hatch perimeter.
- 2 Add a fitted insulated cover without blocking ventilation.

HELPS PREVENT High utility bills, condensation and ice-dam conditions

DAY
10

CHANGE THE FURNACE FILTER

THE ISSUE A clogged filter restricts airflow and strains heating equipment.



HOW TO FIX IT

- 1 Match the exact filter size.
- 2 Install it with the airflow arrow facing the correct direction.

HELPS PREVENT Wasted energy, poor air quality and equipment strain



DAY
11

CLEAN THE DRYER VENT

THE ISSUE Lint buildup traps heat and restricts airflow through the duct.



- HOW TO FIX IT**
- 1 Unplug the dryer first.
 - 2 Brush and vacuum the accessible duct; clear the exterior flap.

HELPS PREVENT Dryer fires, trapped moisture and appliance damage

DAY
12

TEST THE SUMP PUMP

THE ISSUE Debris or a stuck float can stop the pump when water rises.



- HOW TO FIX IT**
- 1 Clear visible debris from the pit.
 - 2 Pour in water and confirm it discharges away from the home.

HELPS PREVENT Basement flooding, mold and ruined belongings



DAY
13

TEST SMOKE AND CO ALARMS

THE ISSUE Dust, missing batteries and expired alarms can delay a warning.



- HOW TO FIX IT**
- 1 Press every test button and replace batteries.
 - 2 Replace expired units according to the manufacturer.

HELPS PREVENT Delayed warning during a fire or carbon-monoxide emergency

DAY
14

PREPARE STEPS, DECKS AND WALKWAYS

THE ISSUE Wet leaves, algae and raised fasteners become winter hazards.



- HOW TO FIX IT**
- 1 Clear slippery buildup and tighten accessible fasteners.
 - 2 Stage a shovel and appropriate ice melt before the freeze.

HELPS PREVENT Falls, freeze-thaw damage and rotting boards