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Winter is coming and Van Zante Construction is gearing up for the season!

Here are some tips to help %Winter Proof+your home.

### **Outside your Home**

- **Clean out gutters.** Clear out debris from gutters so melting snow and ice can freely flow. This will prevent ice damming. Ice damming is where water is unable to drain through the gutters and instead seeps into the house causing damage.
- **Install gutter guards.** Gutter guards prevent debris from entering the gutter and interfering with the flow of water away from the house.
- **Trim trees and remove dead branches.** Snow, ice, and wind can cause branches to break and damaging your home or other property.
- **Seal cracks and holes in outside walls and foundations.** Use caulking to fill holes so water and ice cannot seep in creating further damage. Also make sure that skylights and other roof openings have proper weather stripping to prevent snowmelt from seeping in.

## Inside your Home

- **Keep the house warm.** Set the thermostat for at least 65 degrees. The temperature inside the walls, where the pipes are located, is considerably colder and setting the thermostat at a lower temperature will not keep the pipes from freezing.
- **Add extra insulation to attics, basements and crawl spaces.**
- **Check and repair the roof, sidewalls, windows and doors of your home** ó caulk and seal around chimneys, windows, doors, pipes, etc. Prevent ice and water from entering any little cracks and causing water damage or mold. Repair and replace any old, wore out windows and doors to newer energy efficient ones.
- **Have the heating system serviced.** Boilers, chimneys, and furnaces should be serviced at least once a year.
- **Check pipes.** Look closely for cracks and leaks. Have the pipes repaired and wrap exposed pipes with insulation
- **Dress windows** – Keep the cold out and the heat in with classic, full-length lined curtains or thermal blinds. Thermal blinds help to retain warmth in winter and keep your room cool in summer.
- **Make sure that smoke and fire alarms are working properly.** Residential fires increase in the winter. Also, consider installing a carbon dioxide detector, since a well sealed home can trap this toxic gas.
- **Learn how to shut the water off and know where your pipes are located.**
- **Hire a licensed contractor to look for structural damage.** If damage is discovered, have it repaired now rather than waiting for a problem to occur. Also, ask about ways to prevent water damage due to snow-related flooding.

Feel free to contact us anytime with any questions or concerns you may have about ~~the~~ winter proofing+your home! Remember, Van Zante Construction is here to help with all our snow removal needs. Let us know if you or someone you know may be interested. Thank you!

## Van Zante Construction

- 1.) Dunstan, Jaclyn. "Checklist: How to Winterproof your home." RICS. 29 Nov. 2013. Web. 15 Oct. 2014.
- 2.) Robinson, Allan. "Checklist to Winter-Proof Your Home." Hoffman Web Solutions. n.d. Web. 15 Oct. 2014.