

WINTER STORM TERMS

- **HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK:** Includes any potential weather hazard out to seven days. It is used for planning purposes.
- **WINTER STORM WATCH:** Issued when there is a potential for a winter storm to affect the region during the next one to three days. Use this time to ensure you have supplies at home.
- **WINTER STORM WARNING:** Criteria includes six inches of snow or more, or lower amounts if accompanied by strong winds or a combination of dangerous winter elements. Avoid unnecessary travel, and conditions may be life-threatening.
- **BLIZZARD WARNING:** Issued when snow or blowing snow lowers visibility to 0.25 miles or less, wind gusts hit 35mph or higher, and the storm lasts for three hours or more. Travel is dangerous and should be avoided if possible.
- **ICE STORM WARNING:** Issued when freezing rain will cause widespread glazing. A coating of ice is expected to reach 0.25 inches thick or more on objects and makes travel nearly impossible.
- **SNOW SQUALL WARNING:** Issued when brief snow showers reduce visibility to 0.25 miles or less with gusty winds and blowing snow. Cold road temperatures could result in flash freezes and very dangerous travel conditions.



ReadyWisconsin is a campaign of Wisconsin Emergency Management, a division of the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs.

ReadyWisconsin seeks to educate and empower people to prepare for and respond to disasters.

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weather.gov/safety/



WINTER STORM SAFETY





BEFORE A WINTER STORM

- Winterize your home.
 - Make sure snow removal equipment is in working order.
 - Get a furnace tune-up.
 - Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
 - Wrap pipes with pipe insulation to prevent them from freezing.
 - Have your chimney or flue inspected.
 - Clean gutters of leaves and debris.
 - Insulate walls and attic space.
- Have emergency supplies on hand.
 - Make sure your emergency kit is properly stocked and have essential medications on hand.
 - Have sufficient heating fuel in case sources are cut off.
- Prepare your vehicle for winter.
 - Have a mechanic inspect your vehicle.
 - Maintain at least half a tank of gas at all times.
 - Have a vehicle emergency kit.
 - Make sure your vehicle is clear of ice and snow before driving.
- Bring pets indoors.
 - If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate shelter.

DURING A WINTER STORM

- Listen to local media for current weather information.
- Limit time outdoors.
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary.
- If caught outdoors, find shelter.
- If driving, slow down. Roads may be slick.
- If your heat goes out:
 - Close off unneeded rooms to avoid wasting heat.
 - Stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors.
 - Close blinds or curtains to keep in some heat.
 - Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Remove layers to avoid overheating.

AFTER A WINTER STORM

- Continue monitoring local media for emergency information.
- Stay off streets and roads until clear of snow.
- Clear snow from the sidewalk on your property, include any nearby curb cuts for wheelchair access.
- Take frequent breaks when shoveling snow to prevent overexertion.
- Dig out fire hydrants and storm drains in your neighborhood.
- Check your roof and clear accumulated snow to avoid roof collapses.
- Check on friends, family, and neighbors who may need additional assistance.