

**Wm. Patrick Madden**  
*Mayor*



**John Salka**  
*Deputy Director of Public Information*

**Monica Kurzejeski**  
*Deputy Mayor*

**Office of the Mayor**  
City Hall  
433 River Street  
Troy, New York 12180

Phone: (518) 279-7131  
Fax: (518) 270-4546  
john.salka@troyny.gov

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## City Officials Remind Residents to Prepare Home for Winter Season

**TROY, NY** – With the winter season just around the corner, Mayor Patrick Madden is reminding Troy residents to take proactive steps to winterize their homes, apartments and businesses for colder temperatures and winter conditions.

**Mayor Madden said**, “The winter season can present significant problems for homes, including higher heating bills, and issues with interior and exterior household water pipes. I encourage residents to take proactive steps to avoid these cold weather-related issues during the winter months.”

### Energy Conservation

Colder weather can result in increased heating costs for the fall and winter months. Residents can take small steps to help save energy, save money, and stay comfortable this winter using the following tips from the [U.S. Department of Energy](#):

- **Take advantage of heat from the sun** – during the day, open curtains on south-facing windows to allow sunlight to heat your home. Close them at night to reduce chill from cold windows.
- **Cover drafty windows** – use heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames. Install tight-fitting insulated drapes or shades to help reduce cold air infiltrating your home.
- **Adjust the temperature** – when at home and awake, set your thermostat as low as comfortable.
- **Find and seal leaks** – seal air leaks around utility cut-throughs for water pipes, gaps around chimneys and recessed lights, and unfinished spaces in cupboards and closets. Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows
- **Heating system maintenance** – schedule a service for your heating system. Homes with furnaces and heat pumps should replace the filter once a month (or

as needed). Homes with wood or pellet-burning heaters should clean the flue vent regularly; clean the inside periodically to ensure your home is heated efficiently.

- **Lower holiday lighting costs** – when decorating your home for the holidays, use light-emitting diode (LED) holiday lights to reduce energy costs
- **Lower water heating costs** – cover your water heater with an approved water heater blanket. This will keep the tank from losing heat as quickly.

## Extreme Cold

During periods of extreme cold temperatures, Troy residents are reminded to take the following preventative measures to prevent interior household pipes from freezing:

- Keep your thermostat set to the same temperature for both day and night, even when you are not home;
- Close all exterior doors, including garage doors and other exterior entryways;
- Open hot & cold faucets to a slow drip during the coldest time of the day or night;
- Keep kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors open to allow heat to reach un-insulated pipe near exterior walls. Don't forget to remove any stored household cleaners and chemicals out of the reach of children; and
- Know the location of your internal shut off valves in case of a leak or frozen pipe.

If a pipe is found to have frozen, keep the faucet(s) open and contact a licensed plumber immediately. If a household water pipe bursts, turn off the water at the internal shut-off valve immediately.

Residents can also prepare all outdoor faucets for the winter season. Start by locating all exterior faucets on their home and drain residual water and remove attached hoses. Locate and turn off each individual shutoff valve inside your home leading to each exterior faucet. After turning off the shutoff valve, drain the exterior faucet.

## Winter Travel

Residents who will be away from their home or apartment for an extended period during the winter months are reminded to be careful how much they lower the heat. Additionally, residents can also ask trusted neighbors or friends to check on their property while they are traveling.

For more Winter Safety Tips, visit <https://www.ny.gov/winter-safety-tips>

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**Press Contact:**

John Salka, Deputy Director of Public Information

[John.Salka@troyny.gov](mailto:John.Salka@troyny.gov) / (518) 279-7131