

# Scioto's Monthly Home Care Tips

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## Eliminate Winter Hazards



Winter power outages don't often occur, but as the recent cold winter storm that knocked out the power for many across the US can attest- it doesn't hurt to be prepared. Most people have a general idea of what items to have on hand for a winter storm, like flashlights, candles, extra blankets, a battery-powered radio, food, and water. But how well can you weather a power outage that lasts for more than an hour or two?

Following are a few helpful tips, should you lose power in the dead of winter...

- **Layer it on.** If you need extra warmth and don't have an alternate heat source such as a fireplace or wood stove, layer loose clothing, put on a hat and grab blankets. Never use charcoal briquettes, camping stoves, or other propane or kerosene-powered appliances indoors.
- **Keep your curtains closed and limit your trips outside.** This way, you'll keep in your existing heat for a longer period. Also, choose one room to stay in and close it off.
- **Grab your battery-powered radio and tune into a local news radio station.** You'll stay informed of emerging weather issues and may find out when your power will be restored.

- **Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed.** Most frozen food will last approximately two days if left in a full freezer (one day if it's half full). Most refrigerated food will last a day in the refrigerator, and covering the refrigerator with a blanket will help seal in the cold. But above all, don't take a chance on spoiled food. If you have a doubt, throw it out.
- **Eat non-salty, non-perishable foods.** Canned items, such as pastas, vegetables, and baked beans can be eaten without heating them first. Additionally, fig bars, granola bars, plain cereal and other breakfast items (like pastries or Pop Tarts®) are good food energy sources. And if you use disposable plates and utensils, you won't have to worry about unwashed plates becoming a host to harmful bacteria in and around your sink.
- **If it's freezing outside, let your faucets drip.** This will help you avoid having frozen pipes.
- **Park outside.** Some electric garage door openers feature a manual override. Some don't. If a heavy storm is threatening, you may want to consider leaving your vehicle in the driveway. (Also, if it's freezing out, don't set your parking brake if you don't need to. Parking brakes can freeze in place. Use first gear on a manual shift or select "Park" on an automatic)



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