

# Spot the signs

## How to protect your home from severe weather

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Colder months are harsher on homes than warmer ones and being prepared for the severe weather conditions will help to protect your home and belongings. The effects of climate change will result in even more unpredictable weather with further risks of floods, storms, heatwaves and heavy snow.

To reduce the likelihood of damage in the event of severe weather this winter, follow our top tips:



Dismantle large garden furniture and store the parts indoors or in a shed along with other loose items such as flower pots and garden gnomes to avoid them being knocked over in high winds. Make sure any furniture that cannot be dismantled is tied down securely



Lawnmowers and other electrical garden items exposed to stormy conditions may lead to failure, ensure that these are stored safely in a shed or garage



Remove snow build up from low roofs using a broom during a substantial snowfall



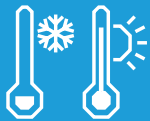
In heavy rainfall and icy weather, cover your barbeque and other aluminium items to protect them from rust



Use salt or sand on paths and steps outside the property to clear away snow



### TOP TIP



Leave your heating on a constant low heat above 12°C during the colder months to protect pipework from freezing

Frozen pipes are one of the main concerns in icy conditions, in the event of a frozen pipe you can help to prevent further damage to the pipework and property by following these simple steps:

- Turn off the water mains at the stopcock (often found under the kitchen sink)
- Run the taps to drain the system
- Locate the pipe that is frozen

- Using a hairdryer or hot water bottle, thaw the frozen pipe

**Always remember, after following these steps it is important to notify your landlord.**

Location of stopcock:

For more information please visit

**#BeWinterReady**

[hamiltonfraser.co.uk/knowledge/winter-tenant-advice](https://hamiltonfraser.co.uk/knowledge/winter-tenant-advice)