



2018 HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

The Silverlake HOA is proud to sponsor the Annual Silverlake Halloween Decorating Contest for the 11th year. This year's winners are the Hares at 3927 Balmoral Lane in the Fairway Village section of Silverlake. The lucky winners will receive \$100 cash prize. Congratulations!



Breakfast with Santa 2018



On the very first day of December, Santa visited Silverlake. As usual, the event was well attended and a wonderful success. The weather cooperated and allowed for a great turnout. Pancakes, sausage, hot chocolate, juice and cold drinks topped the menu. The very popular crafts and cookie decorating was assisted by the Girl Scouts, and all those who participated took home a handmade ornament or beautifully decorated cookies. Train rides and other fun for the kiddies made it a special day. Highlight of the event, of course, was the arrival of Santa Claus who patiently listened to each of the Christmas wish lists for all of the good little boys and girls who attended.

Unwrapped toys were collected to be distributed to less fortunate children through the Pearland Neighborhood Center and Women's Shelter. A special thank you to all who volunteered their services to make this annual event a wonderful holiday success.



Happy Holidays Silverlake

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ARTICLE INFO

The Silverlake News is mailed monthly to all Silverlake HOA residents. Residents, community groups, schools, etc., are welcome to submit information. Personal news is also welcome. All submissions will be reviewed for content and approved by the Board of Directors and Newsletter Committee Chair. The deadline for submission is the 8th of the month before publication.

Excluding Pests

When the weather turns towards autumn and leads into winter, many pests start looking for a cozy place which can often lead them inside your home. By performing a thorough inspection, you can locate areas where these pests may enter and stop them before they become a problem.

Inside the home, look around doors and windows when there is light outside; if you see light around roods or windows, then there isn't a good seal and weather stripping should be replaced. The attic should be inspected for holes or entry points for small mammals such as rats, mice, and squirrels. Attic vents should be covered with stainless steel screening to block animals from entering. Outside, inspect the perimeter of the home for any cracks and crevices in the foundation that should be sealed. Locate pipe and wire penetrations that enter the structure and repair any areas that allow pests to enter the home.

Ideas on how to exclude pests from your home:

- Trim back or prune any trees and shrubs that touch or overhang the home
- Seal pipe & wire penetrations with copper mesh, sealant, or expanding foam
- Replace weather stripping around doors and windows if there is not a good seal
- Repair or replace any window screens with holes
- For homes with brick or stone facades, stuff weep holes with steel wool* or copper mesh *steel wool will rust if it gets wet, so do not use on light colored façades
- Inspect all furniture, boxes, and bags for pests before carrying them into the home
- Inspect all plants for insect pests before bringing them into the home
- Do not store firewood inside the home, against the outside walls, or near doors
- Use sheet metal, hardware cloth, or steel wool to seal any areas where animals have chewed to enter the home** **make sure animal is not in the home or you'll seal it inside!

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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Preventing Frozen Pipes

The American Red Cross has good advice concerning preventing frozen pipes.

Recommendations to consider before and during the onset of cold weather:

- Close any inside valves that supply outdoor hose bibs
- Open outside hose bibs and allow water to drain, keep valve open
- Newspaper can provide protection to exposed pipes in areas that do not have frequent or prolonged temperatures below freezing.
- Keep garage doors closed
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate around plumbing
- Let water drip from the faucet as even a trickle of water helps prevent freezing of pipes
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both day and night
- If you are away, leave the heat on in your home to a temperature no lower than 55 F
- Wrap exterior pipes with commercial pipe wrap or old towels or cloths

Don't forget about plants and pets when the temperature drops. Protect plants with cloth coverings and keep pets indoors.

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4 Ways to Help Prepare Your Home for Winter



Winter is on its way and for much of the country that means freezing temperatures, wind, snow, ice and heavy jackets.

Preparing your home now for the colder months ahead is vital. The following tips are designed to help get you and your home ready for what winter has in store.

Invest in Weather Stripping

If you can run your hand around the edges of an outside-facing door on a cold day and feel the flow of cool air, you have an airflow problem, one that could cost you a lot of money over the course of the winter.

Weather stripping is a good way to help seal warm air in and cold air out of your home. Available in almost any hardware store, weather stripping installs quickly around windows and doors and can help prevent air leaks.

Before winter arrives, check your windows, doors, vents and fans, plumbing areas, air conditioners and any electrical/gas lines for leaks or drafts to save yourself energy and heating costs.

Evaluate Your Roof to Prevent Ice Dams

Your roof is one of the most vital protections standing between you and the harsh outside elements. Excess snow, ice and other environmental hazards can cause significant damage,\" said Chala Sampers, Top Dog Roofing. \"The objective is to get as much of the water away from your house as possible.\"

In cold weather, heat escaping your home can melt and refreeze ice and snow on your roof, leading to ice dams. Evaluate your roof in advance of harsh winter weather to prevent ice damming. An ice dam in your gutter can cause water to seep into and saturate an interior wall. These block off drains, and let water and ice continually build up on your roof – and possibly under it – weakening your roof and putting your home at risk. If you're unsure of what to look for, see

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(Continued from Page 4)

if a roofing professional can evaluate your roof for ice dams while cleaning your gutters.

To help prevent ice dams make sure your attic is well insulated and ventilated. Insulate the attic floor well to minimize the amount of heat rising through the attic from within the house. If your attic wasn't built with a ventilation system, contact a trusted local professional or contractor about ventilating your attic before winter.

Buy a Roof Rake to Keep Snow from Building up

If you expect a lot of snow this winter, invest in a roof rake. As snow packs down from multiple storms it could cause a roof collapse – a roof rake can help you easily clear snow off your roof and protect your home during those blizzard months.

“Understanding the importance of checking your roof and knowing the basics of winter roof maintenance and damage can help homeowners avoid unnecessary stress and surprise costs,” added Chala Sampers, Top Dog Roofing (<https://www.topdogroof.com/>).

What's even more surprising is that a new, national survey by Owens Corning Roofing found that although 70% of Austin homeowners said that damage to their roof would be stressful or very stressful, only 3% say they always check or have their roofs checked

before the start of a season that typically brings bad weather. So be prepared this season and make sure to conduct a thorough roof check before, during and after harsh winter months.

Protect Pipes from Freezing

A frozen water pipe can burst and flood your house or basement.

Help protect your pipes from freezing in bitter cold weather by making sure you don't turn the heat down too much when you're out of the house. You may not be there to enjoy it, but your pipes need the heat to prevent freezing.

Give your home a once over for any exposed or vulnerable piping and wrap them with insulation. Hardware stores usually carry foam rubber or fiberglass sleeves for pipes, which are easy to install.

If your pipes do freeze, and water stops flowing from faucets, call a plumber immediately.

Please keep personal safety in mind when checking items off this list and connect with a trusted professional or contractor for help with anything you are unable to do yourself. For more info visit <https://www.owenscorning.com/roofing>.

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Gardening To Do List - December in the Garden

By Marie Iannotti

Many of us do more shopping and planning for our gardens during the winter months than actual gardening but that doesn't mean there's nothing to do. In the warmer zones, December is the start of pleasant weather and a chance to enjoy planting cool season vegetables and flowers that don't tolerate your summers. Northern gardeners should use this period without leaves to scout for egg masses and other signs of trouble on trees and shrubs. Here are some more regional gardening tips for the beginning of winter.

In General

- Keep watering your holiday plants and give them plenty of light.
- Check houseplants and any plants you brought indoors for the winter, for insects that may have hitched a ride. With the heat on, they can multiply quickly.
- Also check any bulbs, corms, tubers and bare root plants for dessication or rot.
- Start eating those stored vegetables and think about planting more winter squash next year.
- Feed the birds.

In Southwest

- Be prepared for sudden swings in temperature and protect tender plants with row covers, newspaper or blankets.
- Start seeds of cool season vegetables and flowers.
- Cut back asparagus, as soon as it dies back or the ground freezes.



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