

DECEMBER

# Monthly Home Maintenance

## **FLUSH THE WATER HEATER**

Don't get stuck having to take cold showers this winter. Flushing your water heater removes sediment and improves its lifespan and efficiency. This should be done at least once a year — twice if you have more than four people in your household.

## **GUARD AGAINST PIPE BURSTS**

On the coldest winter nights, water in pipes can freeze and cause it to expand, damaging or cracking the pipes. When that happens and the ice melts, you're at risk for a pipe burst and flood in or around your home. The most vulnerable are pipes that run outdoors or through unheated areas like the garage or attic. Start by shutting off and draining outdoor faucets, and covering spigots with a protective faucet cover. Then insulate with pipe wraps or foam pipe sleeves to keep them warm.

## **CHANGE FAN ROTATION**

Changing the rotation of your ceiling fans in winter helps drive warm air down from the ceiling.

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