



Winter 2013 Checklist

Tim Carter, Founder - www.AsktheBuilder.com
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Winter 2013 Checklist:

1. Furnace / Boiler Burner Health:

Check your furnace or heating device. If gas operated, look at the flame while burning. If more yellow flame than blue, call a serviceman. If it's an oil burner, it should burn with no soot. You knew that, didn't you?

2. Oil Heat Nozzles and Filters:

Heat with oil? Did you change the nozzle in your burner late last summer? You changed the oil filter when, five years or a decade ago? If you want heat when you turn the thermostat, replace them each year.

3. Air Filters:

Yes, you MUST clean and/or replace the air filters in your forced-air furnace or AC units MONTHLY. Did you think filter manufacturers were just trying to make more money?

4. Carbon Monoxide Detectors:

You did change the batteries in your carbon monoxide detector the day after New Year's right? What? You don't have a CO detector and you have fuel-burning appliances??? Are you kidding me? Do you have special tinted glasses that allow you to see carbon monoxide?

5. Chimney or Wood / Pellet Stove Pipes:

You burn wood? Yes, I know you had a chimney sweep come and inspect your chimney, right? Tell the truth. Seriously.

6. Flush Drain Lines:

Did you fill all your sinks with water, as well as your tub, and have someone help you flush all the toilets and empty the sinks/tub at the same time last week? You know, to flush out your drain lines and building drain? Your dogs and cats can help you if you have multiple toilets.

7. Invigorate Septic Tanks:

Do you have a buried **out-of-sight out-of-mind** septic tank like me? Every weekend you're putting in 2 ounces of **Stain Solver oxygen bleach** in your toilet at night, flushing it and going to bed, right? You're a smarty and realize the oxygen bubbles in the septic system really help the bacteria in the tank gobble up all the nasty waste products. Go to www.StainSolver.com now and order a 9-pound container.

8. Poor Attic Ventilation:

Last weekend, you popped your head up into your attic on the COLDEST day/night of the year right? You're one of those warriors that knows all about condensation aren't you? Nice! You knew to inspect to see if the wood framing or roof sheathing was covered with frost. If you saw frost, you know that you need better attic ventilation. Yes, we'll fix that in the spring.

9. Prevent Shower Mold:

Every morning each person that uses the shower shakes off the shower curtain or uses a squeegee to wipe all the water from the shower doors and walls in the shower, correct? Excuses are reasons for failure. I don't want to hear yours.

If not, you'll need more **Stain Solver** to clean all the mold and mildew. Oh, keep the curtain and shower door open as well as the door to the bathroom. You want the inside of the shower and fogged-covered walls/ceiling in the bathroom to dry ASAP.

No one's coming over so it's okay to leave the door open, jeeesh.

10. Frozen Hose Bibs:

Tell me you forgot to disconnect your hoses from your outdoor frost-proof hose bibs (outdoor spigots) back in the fall. What were you thinking? Go do it now. Do **NOT** turn on the hose bib unless you have a helper inside ready to **scream** at you that water is spraying all over

your basement when you open the valve. I pray to God the hose bib didn't already freeze and burst on you.

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About AsktheBuilder.com and Tim Carter:

Tim Carter is the founder of www.AsktheBuilder.com. Prior to starting his online business, Carter was a hands-on remodeling contractor and custom home builder. He was selected as one of the Top 50 Remodeling Contractors in the USA in 1993, the same year he launched his syndicated newspaper column that spawned www.AsktheBuilder.com.

Carter is a true hands-on builder. Unlike much of the advice you might get from unknown personalities on the Internet, Carter has decades of real experience working for paying customers at their houses.



Carter's motto is ***Do it Right, Not Over***. Develop that same attitude about everything you do around your home, and you'll make Tim's day!

You can get more money and time-saving tips each week if you sign up now for Tim's **FREE** www.AsktheBuilder.com newsletter. The newsletter is delivered via email, and comes out once a week. Sign up right in the center of the home page at www.AsktheBuilder.com.

Thanks and please **share this checklist** with your friends and relatives!

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Do It Right, Not Over