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THE CATHOLIC MUTUAL CONNECTION



What to Do Before Winter

Fall is an important time to get buildings and property ship-shape for the cooler - or, in many parts of the country, downright colder - weather that will be coming soon. The best way to start getting ready for winter is to have your property thoroughly inspected with the aid of a [Self Inspection Report](#). This inspection should include windows, doors, and ventilation openings to make sure there are no gaps or cracks where cold air may enter. Minor gaps can be eliminated by caulking, but major gaps may require replacement. Special attention should also be paid to furnaces and boilers, and all pipes - especially those in concealed spaces or in areas with limited heat service, like those that are located outdoors above ground. During the colder months, it is important to keep all buildings heated, to prevent the pipes from freezing. You can learn more about protecting your property from winter by clicking [here](#) or [here](#).



Checklist For Operation And Maintenance Of Cast Iron Heating Boilers

Thanks to [Hartford Steam Boilers](#) for this helpful guide to ensuring boiler safety and efficiency.

- ✓ Have your boiler periodically checked out by a qualified service and repair company.
- ✓ Keep boiler surfaces, firebox, ash pit, casing, and ducts clean to prevent corrosion. Check for and flush out as needed to remove scale and sludge build-ups.
- ✓ Keep the boiler room dry and reasonably clean. Do not let debris, ashes, etc. accumulate around the boiler or piping.
- ✓ Examine the boiler for evidence of rust growth between sections. Check tie-rods of push-nipple type boilers to be sure the nuts have been backed off several turns, or that the rods are provided with split nuts or compression washers.
- ✓ Maintain a closed, tight system. Leaks means excess make-up. Do not use sealants in the water. They may stop leaks but they also lead to plugging and eventual failure of sections.
- ✓ Make sure all safety devices, controls and attachments are installed properly, clean and operational.
- ✓ If make-up water is required, check raw water quality to reduce corrosion, scale and sludge. When needed, use only manufacture approved antifreeze and chemicals in the system.

For more information about equipment safety, including heating, lighting, cooling, ventilation, cooking and refrigeration units, click [here](#) for schools and [here](#) for religious institutions.

Have a Fall-Free Winter

The road to church should never be a slippery slope, yet numerous injuries occur on Catholic properties every year due to falls on icy and snowy surfaces. Before things start to really cool down, it's a good idea to review [our guidelines](#) for proper ice and snow removal procedures. If you scroll down to the second page of the document, you will also find a winter maintenance log that is invaluable by documenting that every area of your location has been properly shoveled and salted each time there's a snowstorm.



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