

Winterize to maximize cold weather living

Shorter days and cooler temperatures mean residents will be looking for ways to keep warm. There are measures that residents and your property manager can take to increase safety and comfort.

An inexpensive way to reduce the loss of warmth within units is to apply self-stick rubber weather sealing along window frame interiors. These strips are easy to apply, effective, and unobtrusive. If a drafty balcony door is the problem, consider getting a professional in to get a better fit. If that isn't possible, insulated curtains may be the best answer, especially if residents want unfettered access to the balcony year-round. For walls that seem to be poorly insulated and cannot be structurally upgraded, it may be a good idea to hang a winter decoration made of fabric, such as a carpet or quilted piece, to provide a greater barrier. Residents also need to know your electrical capacities and should follow rules about extension cords and combustibles.

Common areas need extra attention during the cold months as well. Proper anti-slip floor mats can prevent injuries on wet, snowy or icy days, and blowers can keep floors dry and push or keep cold air out of interior spaces. Prepare your hose bibs, tree limbs and picnic areas for inclement winter weather by sealing, trimming and covering appropriately.

Don't forget your staircases when it comes to slip-and-fall protections, and if you have carpets in your common areas, discuss with a flooring professional ways to prevent damage from exterior contaminants carried in on people's shoes. More frequent cleaning during bad weather may be necessary.

If you want to go beyond just the basics of winterizing, consider a bit of light redecorating that puts some cheer into what can be some pretty bleak months in many regions. Special lighting in a few corners to spotlight some happy winter wonderland décor or maybe setting up a cozy corner with an electric fireplace could make your lobby or common area friendlier. Even stairwells and entryways in garden apartments can get a winter uplift with a few little twinkle lights in the landscaping or windows.

With good planning and timely action, your complex can be winterized and beautiful at the same time!

Posted by **Global Administrator** on 10/25/2016 8:47:22 AM