

2009 Mid-Winter Home Maintenance Calendar

February...

- Check your sump pump. Do this now, before the first spring thaws of March, when melting snow and rain showers can cause basement flooding. To test, pour two gallons of water into the drain to raise the float and activate the motor. It should stop running once the water level drops below the activation level.
- See if your gas meter is iced over. On average, February is one of the snowiest months of the year. According to Managemyhome.com, accumulated ice on the meter can cause it to malfunction and create a gas leak. If the meter is iced over, contact your gas utility. (Chipping off the ice yourself can damage the unit.)

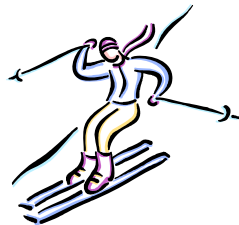
March...

- Put new batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Do this when you turn your clocks ahead for daylight saving time, which begins on March 8 this year.
- Make sure your fire extinguisher is properly pressurized. Check the gauge; the needle should be in the green section.

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