

YOUR FIRST MONTANA WINTER

Prepare for the season. Enjoy the change.

A practical home, vehicle, and property checklist for your first winter here.

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Engel & Völkers Western Frontier

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Get your home ready.

Use the home's manuals and qualified service providers to turn these prompts into a property-specific plan.



HOME SYSTEMS

Heat & indoor safety

Schedule heating service; learn how your system works. Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms according to their instructions.

[Open official information](#)

BEFORE FREEZING WEATHER

Water & shutoffs

Locate the main water shutoff. Ask a plumber about exposed pipes, exterior faucets, irrigation, and any seasonal winterization your home needs.

THE OUTSIDE ROUTINE

Snow & access

Arrange plowing or shoveling, identify where snow can be stored, and plan how to keep entrances and necessary equipment accessible.

IF POWER GOES OUT

An outage plan

Keep lights, charging options, supplies, and a warm place to go in mind. Never run a fuel-powered generator indoors or in a garage; follow placement and ventilation instructions.

[Open official information](#)

Build a winter travel routine.

Check the forecast and road conditions before every longer trip. Adjust or postpone plans when conditions warrant.



1

BEFORE THE SEASON

Prepare the vehicle

Have tires, battery, lights, wipers, and fluids checked. Discuss suitable winter tires with a qualified tire professional. Keep a scraper and snow brush handy.

[Open official information](#)

2

YOUR VEHICLE KIT

Pack the basics

Carry warm layers, blankets, water, snacks, a flashlight, phone charging, a shovel, and a first-aid kit. Include items needed by everyone traveling with you.

[Open official information](#)

3

ON THE ROAD

Leave extra time

Clear snow from the vehicle. Slow down, increase following space, and switch off cruise control on slippery roads. Give snowplows room to work.

[Open official information](#)

4

EACH TRIP

Check before you leave

Use Montana 511 for road reports and closures, and check the weather forecast. Share your route and expected arrival when conditions are challenging.

[Open official information](#)

Tour the home with winter in mind.

A sunny visit is a good time to ask what happens when the weather changes.



ASK ON A TOUR

The driveway

Where does it slope? Who plows it? Is there room to turn around and store snow? Request the current arrangement and cost information.

TRACE THE WHOLE ROUTE

The route home

Which roads are public or private? Who maintains each segment? Ask about winter access rather than assuming a mapped road is maintained.

COLLECT THE RECORDS

The operating history

Request available heating and utility history, service records, and information about backup systems. Ask how an empty home is monitored.

PICTURE YOUR ROUTINE

The daily rhythm

Where will wet gear dry? Is there covered storage? Try the entry, garage, and grocery-carrying route with everyday use in mind.

Your before-winter checklist

Assign a person and a date to each task. Use the notes to record service contacts and equipment details.

Task	Who / provider	Target date	Done
Heating service arranged			
Smoke / CO alarms checked			
Water shutoff located			
Snow removal arranged			
Vehicle service / tires checked			
Vehicle emergency kit packed			

Snow-removal contact and backup plan:

Utility outage contact and a warm place to go:

Tasks specific to this property:

Keep emergency contacts and manufacturer instructions accessible. For an immediate emergency, call 911.

Let's plan your next chapter.

Make a plan before the first storm so the everyday details feel more familiar.



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Have questions about winter access or upkeep at a home you are considering? Send me the property and your concerns so we can identify what to verify.

[Explore the complete relocation flipbook](#)

[SOURCE LINKS / CHECKED OCTOBER 27, 2026](#)

[MDT: winter driving](#)

[Montana DES: winter storms](#)

[EPA: winter weather & indoor air quality](#)

A preparation worksheet, not a substitute for current weather guidance, equipment instructions, or professional service advice.

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