

# Helpful Home Tips



**John Price & Heather Price**

Sutton Group-Masters Realty Inc Brokerage

1650 Bath Rd. Kingston, ON K7M 4X6

Off: 613-384-5500 Cell: 613-541-9043

Email: [jprice3@cogeco.ca](mailto:jprice3@cogeco.ca)

Web: [www.priceandprice.ca](http://www.priceandprice.ca)

## Easy Solutions to Five Winter Hazards

Although winter brings lovely, snowy scenery, outdoor fun and frothy hot chocolate, Canadian winters can also be hazardous to the health of homes and their owners. The main culprits are ice and snow. Water is one of the few liquids on our planet that

expands rather than contracts as it freezes. Thanks to its unique molecular structure, we enjoy ice on top of ponds and ice cubes floating in drinks but it also results in burst pipes and cracks in driveways.

### Plumbing

Pipes that run along exterior walls are particularly susceptible to freezing. Wrap any exposed pipes in your kitchen, washrooms and basement with foam tubes available from hardware stores. When you take a vacation, lower your thermostat to only 15° C (58° F).

### Walkways

Shovels, sand and salt have traditionally been used to keep walkways clear but modern technology makes it much easier. Electrically-heated walkway mats continually melt ice and snow.

### Collapsed roofs

Heavy snowfall has been known to collapse the roofs on houses, carports and sheds. Be on the safe side and remove snow after a heavy snowfall. Hardware stores sell telescoping shovels and slicing tools especially for this purpose.

### Carbon monoxide

This poisonous gas is produced when wood and gas are burned. For wood-burning fireplaces, hire a chimney sweep to remove creosote to ensure that your fire vents properly. For gas fireplaces, check that the seals on the front panel are tight to contain fumes. A carbon monoxide detector is a valuable precaution.

### Fire

Candles emit warmth, light and pleasant scents but they are also a common cause of fires. Use secure, partially enclosed holders so that candles cannot tip over and start a fire.

Enjoy a healthy, safe winter!