



Winter Storm Preparedness

Winter storms can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, sleet, heavy snowfall, ice, and high winds. These storms can cause transportation, heat, power, and communication disruptions.

Here is some information from the [American Red Cross](#) to help you prepare now to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your home. Click on the checklist links for more info.

 [Power Outage Checklist](#)

 [Winter Storm Preparedness Checklist](#)



**American
Red Cross**

What to Expect During a Winter Storm

These are some of the conditions you might encounter during a winter storm:

-  **Blizzard:** A blizzard combines heavy snow and strong winds. Snow can accumulate quickly, and it may appear to fall sideways or swirl around you. The result is low visibility and challenging conditions on the roads. We recommend that you avoid driving during a blizzard unless it's a true emergency.
-  **Flurries:** A snow flurry is simply a brief, light snow fall that probably won't lead to any accumulation on the ground. It may be pretty, but you won't need your shovel or your sled.
-  **Ice Storm/Freezing Rain:** You might think that rain is less dangerous than snow, but when it falls onto a frozen surface the result is ice. In addition to being treacherous to walk or drive on, ice is heavy and can cause tree limbs to break off – or bring down entire trees. This can block roadways, damage roofs, and pull down power lines.
-  **Sleet:** Sleet starts as rain but freezes before it hits the ground. You can hear it as it hits your windshield or windows, and feel it as an icy sting if it hits your face. It doesn't stick to things the way freezing rain does, but it can accumulate on the ground like snow.
-  **Black Ice:** Despite its name, black ice is actually clear. Other than a slight shininess, you may not see any signs that it's there – which makes it difficult to avoid when driving or walking. A good rule of thumb: if the air temperature is below freezing, be prepared to encounter black ice in shady spots and on overpasses and bridges.
-  **Wind Chill:** Perhaps you've heard a weather forecast that calls for temperatures of 30° with a wind chill of 24°. Just as a breeze cools your skin on a hot day, the winter wind makes a cold temperature feel even colder. The wind chill is what the air outside will feel like on your exposed skin.