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PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT: BE SURE TO WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

ST. LOUIS, MO (January 3, 2011) – Homeowners, are you thinking of settling down for that long winter’s nap? Think again. While you’re confident that your home will be ready for its debut on the housing market later this year, many winter weather hazards can cause costly, time-consuming repairs. As ice, snow and sleet make their way into the Midwest, beware of how these conditions can negatively impact your home.

“The damage done to your home by subzero temperatures can go unseen until the thaw comes,” said Jim Dohr, president of Coldwell Banker Gundaker. “Taking the right precautions to protect your home in the winter will pay off in the spring.”

Here are some tips to protect your home in the dead of winter:

- **Fire it up.** If you turn the thermostat down during the workday or for a vacation, keep the temperature set around 60 degrees. Low temps and shifting interior conditions can have damaging effects, especially with wood.
- **Map it out.** Water pipes can and do burst. In the event of a ruptured water line, know exactly where the main water valve is, and how to shut it off. If you are not able to this, have your plumber’s number handy.
- **Deicing the safe way.** When spreading deicing salt, stay away from plants and grass that can be damaged. Check out salt spreads that are safe for pets and the environment or use sand to build traction on slick walkways.
- **Protect the garage or shed.** A concrete garage or shed floor is porous and absorbed liquid can freeze and cause cracks. Keeping the garage door down will help, but for extreme cold, consider a floor covering or mat.

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