

TIPS TO CLOSE UP THE COTTAGE

As summer starts to wind down, cooler weather and hot cocoa are right around the corner. Also around the corner: pest populations hibernating for winter. Before you get ready to head back to the comfort of your home, be sure to close up your cottage so it is protected from winter weather – and the pests that may try to sneak inside.



1. CLEAN UP INDOORS

Before leaving your summer vacation spot, give your cottage a thorough cleaning. Doing so will help reduce pest attractors and lessen the time spent cleaning upon your return in the spring:

- **Throw away food items.** Food left in your cottage over winter will spoil and decompose. Toss out any food left in your fridge and any perishable food in the pantry to eliminate potential pest food sources.
- **De-clutter.** Get rid of clutter to reduce the risk of a fire and limit pest hiding places in your cottage.
- **Turn off all water sources.** A burst pipe is the last thing you want to be greeted with in the spring. Shut off your cottage's water supply and drain the pipes to eliminate potential leaks or water damage that can also attract pests.
- **Stand mattresses upright.** Strip bedding off of beds and lean mattresses against a wall to stop rodents and other pests from nesting in them.



2. INSPECT OUTDOORS

Inspecting the exterior of your cottage can help identify any gaps or openings that allow winter chill and pests to sneak inside. Keep an eye on these potential problem areas:

- **Windows and doors.** Seal up any cracks, gaps and crevices around doors and windows that let in cold air and act as entryways for pests.
- **Gutters.** Clean gutters around your home's exterior. Clogged cutters can lead to a surplus of water on your roof, causing leaks.
- **Roof.** Inspect your roof and repair any existing openings or damaged areas that may let in snow, rain or pests.



3. TAKE PROPER PRECAUTIONS

A few simple steps can help close your cottage off from pests this winter - even when you aren't home:

- **Repair.** Doors and windows aren't the only places where pests can sneak inside. Check your cottage's walls, flooring and even the building's foundation for structural deficiencies that you can patch up to keep pests out this season.
- **Replace.** Screens, door sweeps and weather stripping around doors and windows need to be replaced routinely. If these devices around your summer home are worn down, replace them before closing up your cottage to prevent a pest invasion.
- **Trim it back.** Keep trees, shrubs and other foliage trimmed away from your cottage's exterior to limit pests' access into your building.



Just because you have left the cottage doesn't mean pests did, too. Call your local Orkin Canada branch to learn more about winter pest prevention and additional steps to protect your cottage.

1-800-800-6754 | orkincanada.ca

© 2019 Orkin Canada, LLC