

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Top tips: Preparing your nursery premises for winter

Are your nursery premises prepared for the winter weather? This week's top tips will help you prepare for winter months ahead to protect children, staff, and your nursery building.

- Carry out a winter risk assessment highlighting any potential risks which winter brings and how you will minimise or remove the risks
- Ensure your boiler is serviced by a suitably qualified expert to avoid unnecessary heating failures over winter
- Check around your building to ensure there are no leaking taps or plumb joints – remember to check hidden pipes
- To avoid pipes freezing and bursting it is recommended that building temperatures do not fall below 4°C when unoccupied and pipes are insulated wherever possible
- Fit draft excluders to doors and windows to reduce heat loss
- Order supplies of salt and grit and store these in an easily accessible place, such as a grit bin near your main entrances and pathways
- Clear gutters, drains and pathways of autumn leaves to prevent blockages and potential slips
- Use natural light wherever possible and energy efficient lighting such as lamps which may reduce winter energy bills
- Check external lights are in good working order or fit lights, where needed
- Secure or remove anything from outdoors which could be a potential hazard if swept away by strong winds
- Identify where stock or equipment could be moved to if there is a flood risk or flood alert
- Ensure your emergency closure plan is up-to-date in case of heavy snow, flood or storm damage and share this with staff and parents
- Create a power cut policy and kit in case of emergencies which includes having a fully charged nursery mobile phone at all times, battery operated torches, contact details for your power supplier, contact details for parents, etc.



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- If your building is next to other premises, swap contact details so you can alert each other at the earliest possible opportunity if there is any risk or potential risk to your building
- Ensure adequate buildings and contents insurance is in place.

NDNA products to support you with these tips

- Citation factsheet: [Shutting your nursery for the festive period](#)

And more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna