



Cottage Closing Checklist

Use this checklist to help protect your cottage over the winter months. Following these tips will keep you safe the next time you power back up, and can save you time and money, too.

POWERING DOWN

If you shut your power off completely, do it safely by following these steps:

- Switch off each branch circuit breaker before shutting off the main electrical switch.
- Unplug or switch off all appliances and electrical devices before switching off the main power if you have a fuse panel.
- Store your extension cords in rodent-proof containers or consider storing them at home to prevent damage.
- Bring outdoor extension cords (or cords exposed to freezing temperatures) inside to keep them from cracking.
- Trim large trees on your cottage property to ensure their branches aren't growing too close to overhead powerlines. Hire a trained arborist to remove dangerous branches or call your local utility company if they own the pole and powerlines.



LEAVE IT ON – SAFELY!

If you use your cottage all year or plan to leave the power on over the winter, follow these tips to avoid any shocking surprises.

- Each time you leave, switch off breakers that supply power to major appliances. If you drain your water system, shut off the power to your hot water heater.
- Unplug these major appliances if you have a fuse panel.
- Unplug space heaters that might turn on suddenly when the temperature drops.
- Don't rely on space heaters in the pump pit if water systems can't be completely drained. Unattended space heaters are a fire hazard.
- Protect your appliances from power surges. Unplug them or use a power bar with surge protection.
- Consider a remote monitoring system to alert you to flooding, freezing, or fire. Many of these systems can also control exterior lighting and interior temperatures, for security and peace of mind.



Electrical safety may not be top-of-mind when rushing around to close a cottage for the season, but your cottage is an investment worth protecting. If you need to do any electrical work – inside or out – to winterize your cottage, hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor to get the job done safely. Find one at esasafe.com.