

SERVPRO of Eaton, Clinton, & Gratiot Counties, & Lansing & Holt Shares Winter Preparedness Tips to Safeguard Michigan Properties

November 03, 2025

CHARLOTTE, MI - November 03, 2025 -

As winter nears in Michigan, SERVPRO of Eaton, Clinton, & Gratiot Counties, & Lansing & Holt provides essential tips for property owners to prevent damage from cold weather events. This initiative addresses the risks posed by freezing temperatures, heavy snow, and ice, which have historically led to significant property losses across the state. Michigan has experienced 60 billion-dollar weather and climate disasters from 1980 to 2024, including seven winter storms that caused extensive damage. Recent data indicates that winter weather resulted in an estimated $61.8 million in property damage nationwide in 2024. In 2022, winter storms accounted for nearly $6 billion in insured losses across the United States. Earlier in 2025, the Northern Michigan Ice Storm from March 28 to 30 caused widespread power outages, loss of communication services, and blocked roads due to downed trees and debris in affected areas.

SERVPRO recommends several practical steps to mitigate these risks. Property owners should maintain indoor temperatures at least at 65 degrees to prevent pipes from freezing, which can lead to bursts and subsequent water damage. Insulating exposed pipes, particularly in unheated areas like basements, attics, and garages, helps protect against cold snaps that are common in Michigan winters. Disconnecting outdoor

hoses and sealing drafts around windows and doors further reduces the chance of freezing-related issues. Servicing heating systems annually ensures efficient operation and minimizes fire hazards from malfunctioning equipment. Regular inspections of roofs and gutters are vital to prevent ice dams, which form when melting snow refreezes at the roof's edge, potentially causing water to back up under shingles and into the structure. Clearing gutters of leaves and debris allows proper drainage and avoids such backups.

In addition, removing snow accumulation from roofs prevents structural strain, especially on flat or low-slope designs where snow should be cleared before it reaches 12 inches in depth. Using a telescopic roof rake with a plastic tip can aid in safe removal without damaging the roofing material. Property owners should also inspect and remove dead or rotting trees near structures to avoid branches falling under the weight of ice or snow, which could cause significant harm to buildings or vehicles. Chimney maintenance, including professional cleaning and inspection, reduces the risk of fires from creosote buildup in wood-burning systems commonly used during cold months. Preparing an emergency kit with essentials like flashlights, batteries, non-perishable food, and blankets equips households for potential power outages.

These measures align with the company's expertise in handling the aftermath of winter-related incidents. As a provider of restoration and cleaning services in Charlotte, MI, and nearby communities, SERVPRO responds to emergencies involving water intrusion from burst pipes, fire damage from heating mishaps, and mold growth stemming from unresolved moisture issues. The company's trained technicians use specialized equipment to extract water, dry affected areas, and restore properties to pre-damage conditions. Mold mitigation services address hidden growth that can develop in damp environments following leaks or floods.

"Proactive preparation plays a key role in minimizing the impact of winter weather on homes and businesses," said Joshua Ingersoll, owner of SERVPRO of Eaton, Clinton, & Gratiot Counties, & Lansing & Holt. "Simple actions like insulating pipes and clearing gutters can prevent thousands of dollars in repairs and ensure safety during harsh conditions."

"Our commitment extends beyond restoration to community education on risk reduction," added Dean M. Dingman, co-owner. "With Michigan's variable winter climate, staying ahead of potential problems helps protect valuable assets and provides peace of mind."

The company maintains active involvement in local organizations, including chambers of commerce in Charlotte, Dewitt, Ithaca, Lansing, and Holt. It sponsors events such as the Charlotte Fire Department's annual Christmas Kiddies program, supports food pantries, and participates in Rotary groups to strengthen community resilience.

SERVPRO of Eaton, Clinton, & Gratiot Counties, & Lansing & Holt operates as a locally owned franchise serving areas including Charlotte, Dewitt, Olivet, Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge, Jackson, Jerome, Lansing, and Holt. Established in the Eaton County region since 2003, the business employs more than 20 staff members from the local community. As part of the SERVPRO national network founded in 1967, the franchise holds certifications from the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification. Staff undergo initial training at the corporate facility and receive ongoing education to handle various restoration scenarios effectively.

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SERVPRO

As a trusted leader in the restoration industry, SERVPRO of Eaton County, SERVPRO of Clinton & Gratiot Counties and SERVPRO of Lansing & Holt has the advanced training and equipment needed to clean and restore your home and business.

Website:

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