CASA TUA

SABRINA BELLECI TEAM | INSIDE INCLINE

A LOCAL'S INSIDER GUIDE

Winter Prep Checklist

INCLINE VILLAGE & CRYSTAL BAY · 2026–27 SEASON

Winter at Lake Tahoe is breathtaking, and it asks a lot of our homes. This is the list our team works through every fall, shaped by years of Sierra storms, Red Days, and the occasional bear in the garage.

SNOW REMOVAL & ACCESS 01

- [ ] **Lock in your seasonal snow removal contract now.** Confirm the driveway, walkways, entries, and decks are covered, and ask how they handle the county plow berm.
- [ ] Service, fuel, and test-start your snow blower.
- [ ] Stock shovels, ice melt, and sand for walkways and driveways.
- [ ] Set snow stakes along driveway edges, landscaping, boulders, and utility boxes so crews can find them under a few feet of snow.
- [ ] Clear pine needles and debris from decks, driveways, culverts, and drains before the first storm.

◆ **Know Red Day vs. Green Day.** Winter parking restrictions start October 1 in Incline and Crystal Bay. On Red Days, street parking is illegal so plows can work. Hotline: 775-833-5555.

ROOF, GUTTERS & EXTERIOR 02

- [ ] Test your heat tape before the first snow, especially where the roof overhangs walkways, driveways, or entries.
- [ ] Keep gutters, downspouts, and slotted drains clear for snowmelt runoff.
- [ ] Line up a roof snow removal pro now for big-snow years, and watch for ice dams along the eaves.
- [ ] Keep snow shoveled away from windows and doors. The weight can break glass.
- [ ] Knock icicles down from the side, never from underneath.
- [ ] Seal cracks and drafts around windows and doors with caulk and weatherstripping.
- [ ] Store or secure deck furniture, grills, and hoses. Mark anything that will disappear under snow.
- [ ] **Keep the gas meter, propane tank, and every exhaust vent clear** (furnace, water heater, dryer). Buried vents can push carbon monoxide back inside.

WATER & PLUMBING 03

- [ ] Drain and shut off irrigation, blow out the lines, and disconnect garden hoses and drip lines.
- [ ] Insulate pipes in unheated areas: crawl spaces, garages, and basements.
- [ ] **Know where your main water shut-off is**, and make sure your caretaker or a trusted neighbor knows too.
- [ ] In a vacant home, keep the heat at 50–55°F or higher, and open sink cabinets on exterior walls.
- [ ] Leaving for weeks? Consider draining the plumbing and adding RV antifreeze to toilets and drains.
- [ ] Add smart leak and low-temperature sensors that alert your phone. A must for second homes.
- [ ] Hot tub: keep it running with a locked cover, or have it professionally winterized.

HEATING & FIREPLACE 04

- [ ] Schedule a professional furnace or boiler inspection, and replace filters.
- [ ] Upgrade to a programmable or smart thermostat you can check from anywhere.
- [ ] Clean and inspect the fireplace and chimney, including the cap and spark arrestor.
- [ ] Stack firewood under cover, off the ground, and away from the house.
- [ ] Cool ashes in a lidded metal can, set well away from the house and deck.
- [ ] Propane homes: confirm your delivery schedule so you never run low mid-storm.

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SAFETY & POWER OUTAGES 05

- ☐ Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and replace the batteries.
- ☐ Build an outage kit: flashlights, lanterns, batteries, phone power banks, blankets, water, non-perishable food, and any medications.
- ☐ Plan for backup heat: a generator or propane heater. Never run a generator in the garage or near windows.
- ☐ Post your emergency contacts somewhere obvious (see the list at right).
- ☐ Check that locks, doors, and windows are secure before winter travel.
- ☐ Away for the season? Arrange a home watch or caretaker service to check in after every storm.

YOUR VEHICLE 06

- ☐ Switch to winter tires by late October or early November. Studded tires are legal in Nevada October 1 through April 30.
- ☐ Carry chains, and practice putting them on in your dry driveway, not on the Mt. Rose Highway.
- ☐ Keep a snow brush, ice scraper, small shovel, and gloves in the car.
- ☐ Pack warm layers, water, snacks, a flashlight, and a phone charger for travel delays.
- ☐ Keep the tank at least half full in winter.
- ☐ Check chain controls and closures on NVRoads.com or by dialing 511 before you head over the summit.

WILDLIFE & BEARS 07

- ☐ Seal openings, crawl space vents, and gaps under decks where animals look for winter shelter.
- ☐ Never leave trash, pet food, or groceries in the garage or car. Bears stay active late into the fall.
- ☐ Use a bear box or an animal-resistant cart, and put trash curbside only on collection day.

GOOD NEIGHBOR 08

- ☐ Help keep fire hydrants and mail cluster boxes near your home shoveled out.
- ☐ Check in on neighbors, especially older and part-time residents, during storms and outages.
- ☐ Review county and HOA rules on snow storage, parking, and property upkeep.
- ☐ Stay informed: NWS Reno forecasts, NVRoads, Nextdoor, and the Inside Incline newsletter.

KEEP THESE NUMBERS HANDY

Emergency	**911**
Red / Green Day parking hotline	**775-833-5555**
Washoe County services & Where's My Plow	**311**
Road conditions & chain controls	**511 · NVRoads.com**
Waste Management (bear-resistant carts)	**775-831-2971**
NV Dept. of Wildlife bear line	**775-688-BEAR**
BEAR League, 24 hours	**530-525-PAWS**
Casa Tua · Sabrina Belleci	**775.354.9745**
My snow removal	_____
My caretaker / home watch	_____
Friendly neighbor	

CASA TUA

NEED A REFERRAL? HAVE A QUESTION?

We know the ins and outs of every season here.

Snow removal, roof shoveling, heat tape, chimney sweeps, HVAC, home watch: our team keeps a list of trusted local pros. Call or text anytime. We're here to support you.

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Provided as a general seasonal guide. Rules, dates, and phone numbers can change; confirm with the agency or a licensed professional before acting.
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