



# HOW TO PREPARE YOUR DECK, PATIO AND PORCH FOR WINTER

# DECK, PATIO AND PORCH FOR WINTER

When temperatures begin to drop, it's time to get your outdoor spaces ready for winter. A little prep now protects your investment and makes spring cleanup easier. Whether you have a wood deck, concrete patio or paver walkway, here's how to get everything ready, furniture included.

## CLEAN AND CLEAR ALL SURFACES

- — Remove leaves, dirt and debris to prevent moisture damage. Sweep or wash thoroughly, moving furniture, planters and rugs so everything underneath is cleaned and dried.

## INSPECT FOR DAMAGE

- — **Wood decks:** Look for raised nails, warped boards or soft spots.
- **Concrete patios:** Check for cracks or pitting that could worsen with freeze-thaw cycles.
- **Pavers:** Make sure they're level and refill gaps with sand to prevent shifting.

## PROTECT CONCRETE & PAVERS

- — After installation, let new concrete or pavers cure at least 28 days. Clean and dry thoroughly, then apply a high-quality sealer to protect against moisture and Colorado's freeze-thaw cycles. Avoid harsh chemical de-icers like rock salt, use sand or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) instead. Reseal if water no longer beads, surfaces look dull or small cracks appear.

## PREP WOOD DECKS

- — If it's been more than a year, restain or reseal your deck to keep moisture out. During winter, remove snow and ice with a plastic shovel or broom to prevent scratches and water damage.

## PROTECT OUTDOOR FURNITURE

- — Clean all pieces and let them dry completely. Store lightweight or fabric-covered items indoors, cover heavier pieces with breathable weatherproof covers and treat wood or metal frames with sealant or rust inhibitor.

## FINAL TOUCHES

- — Make sure gutters and downspouts direct water away from decks, patios and foundations to prevent winter damage like cracking or warping.

