Getting Ready for the Cold

Message from the Mechanics

Every fall and winter, Mechanics are called to apartments because residents feel too cold. Here are some tips that address the most common problems they find when they respond to a call about cold. Some will seem obvious for people used to living in a cold climate, but many of these will be new for arrivals from warmer places, or places with different heating systems.

Keep your Windows Closed at All Times in the Cold

Many residents come from climates where windows are always kept partially or completely open for fresh air. Some countries have heating systems where closed windows are considered dangerous or unhealthy. Our heating systems pull in fresh air without cooling down your apartment. If your windows are open, even a very small amount, it will be impossible to keep your home comfortable for you, or safe for the water pipes. (In extreme cold, water pipes can freeze and burst open, causing considerable damage.)

Air Conditioners Must be Removed from the Wall

Uncovered air conditioner “sleeves” in the wall do not provide any protection from the cold. Just as with open windows, it is impossible to keep your apartment warm unless the air conditioner is removed, and the covering replaced in the wall. If you had Apartments staff install your air conditioner, removal is included in the fee you already paid. If you installed the air conditioner yourself, Apartments Staff will remove it and close up the opening for $15 (added to your Housing account). If you prefer to do the work yourself, you just need to remove the air conditioner unit, insulate the opening, and then replace the cover. If you no longer have the insulation that was in the sleeve when you moved in, styrofoam or “batting” material can be purchased at a hardware store.

You will Need to Wear Socks, and Keep Your Legs and Arms Covered Even When You are Indoors

Many residents don’t think about needing to change their indoor clothing style in the winter, but it is essential. Even with your apartment at a warm temperature, you will probably not feel comfortable unless your feet, legs, and arms are covered. It takes some getting used to, if you are not accustomed to having to bundle up in doors!

Keep Furniture Away from Walls

For warm air to circulate, furniture must be slightly pulled away from the wall, where the warm air enters the apartment. Usually 3 inches is enough room. You should be able to feel the warm air coming out (for instance, by holding your hand over the back of a chair or sofa).
Fall, especially in November, is a special time in Wisconsin. For many people from other countries and other areas in the US it is a surprise to learn that there are a lot of people who look forward to deer hunting season, and very serious about it. No matter what your beliefs are on hunting, it is an activity that is widely accepted in Wisconsin. For most people who do it, it is used as part of their diet. It is also seen as a tradition, and as a means to control the deer population, since their natural predators were eliminated years ago. The week of Thanksgiving is the gun hunting season, which is the most popular for hunters. You will see cars along roads everywhere there are woods, and people dressed in Hunter (or Blaze) Orange.

Over the years working at the front desk, I’ve had many ‘Wisconsin’ questions, from US and international people alike, who want to know what it’s like in the wintertime. I decided to put a few candid thoughts together and hopefully, it’ll help some people as the season’s transition.

The key to dressing in Wisconsin is in layers . . . 2-4 of them, so you can put them on or take them off throughout the day to stay comfortable. A T-shirt, long sleeve shirt, sweater and coat or windbreaker. This is especially key for the spring and fall, when weather is so unpredictable. Socks and sweaters are a MUST! If you do not like to wear socks/sweaters, trust me: you will by the time the snow flies!

Newcomers often do not realize how important it is to wear snow boots, both to protect your toes from discomfort or even frostbite, and to keep from slipping dangerously on the ice that forms.

Autumn is my favorite time of year. There are little to no insects; warm days; cool nights; and the colors are beautiful. Eagle Heights is a great location to walk around and see the colors. If you have the ability to drive outside of Madison, I suggest going to Devil’s Lake State Park; Governor Dodge State Park; the Wisconsin Dells area; Kettle Moraine State Parks or anywhere in the Driftless area. The area is referred to as Driftless, because it was not flattened by glaciers.

For help finding where colors are the most vivid, go to: www.TravelWisconsin.com/fall-color-report Fall, especially in November, is a special time Wisconsin. For many people from other countries and other areas in the US it is a surprise to learn that there are a lot of people in this region who look forward to deer hunting season.

Never lived with snow before? It can be an exciting - or daunting - reality, depending on your outlook. I am often asked “Is there anything to do in winter?” It takes a little to get used to the cold.

We all need to adjust - even Wisconsinites!

Once you do, you might find you enjoy sledding, downhill skiing/snowboarding, cross country skiing, making a snowman, or a fort in the snow, ice skating, walking or snowshoeing, star gazing, and looking for animal tracks in the snow.
Winter also brings darkness and, at times, bitter cold temperatures and wind. Most of us stay indoors during these bouts, to avoid being ‘chilled to the bone’. Some people ‘cabin fever’, an expression meaning you’ve been stuck indoors for a long period of time, lacking sunlight, and maybe feeling depressed. If you can, you may find enjoyment in indoor hobbies -- listening to music, reading, learning a language, drawing, knitting. To counteract this, try some indoor hobbies: knitting, drawing. Maybe have some friends join you at the Community Center to play some board games.

Wisconsin can handle snow well, and the snow crews here in University Apartments, on campus, in the city and elsewhere in the state do the best job they can to make roads drivable as quickly as they can. However, it does require patience for the roads to be cleared AND for driving.

Give yourself extra time to get where you need to go, and drive slowly. Where there’s snow, there’s ice! Common sense also plays a role. Do you really need to go to the store when it’s snowing? Can your errands wait? There might be a time you have plans to travel and the weather won’t cooperate; sometimes it’s just better to let nature win one. Disappointing yes, but many times, it’s just safer to stay home!

If you have any questions about fall or winter, please feel free to come by to talk!

When you first checked in at the Community Center to pick up your apartment key, you were probably overwhelmed with all the information you got. We understand!

If you would ever like to review that information, or have some questions answered, feel free to come by. (Office hours are listed on the back page of the newsletter). We keep information on many things, from State Parks; where to find international groceries in Madison; thrift or “second hand” stores that sell used items for less money that they would cost new; and more. Feel free to stop by the office for information.

Driving in Snow:
Workshop with Officer Brian
November 20
6:45 - 7:30 PM
Community Center

Brian Whitmore, University Police, is the University Apartments Community Officer, discussed this topic at Wisconsin Fest, and has had many requests to repeat it.

Driving in the snow is a scary thought if you’ve never done it before. In University Apartments, you can always opt to take the 80 Bus to campus - but that won’t get you everywhere. Whether you will be driving your own car, or one of the Zipcars, come to Officer Brian’s workshop about driving in the snow.

Some topics include winterizing your vehicle, de-icing the windows, how to use your braking system, and what to put in an emergency winter kit for your car, and more!

If you wish to discuss any concerns with Officer Brian, you can email him at bwhitmore@wisc.edu, or leave a message on his office telephone. Please do not email him urgent questions, since his schedule varies quite a bit, and you may not get a quick response.

If you need assistance urgently, please call University Police at 262-2957 for non-emergencies that need a timely response. As always, dial 9-1-1 whenever there is an emergency or immediate safety concern. Despite what you might have heard, you will not be charged a fee for using 9-1-1!
EVENTS THIS MONTH

*Events Requiring Sign-up must have the required paperwork filled out, signed and returned prior to the deadline. Forms can be obtained at the Community Center or by emailing us at:

Recreation.Assistant@housing.wisc.edu

These programs are free unless otherwise stated below. If there is a charge to participate, it will be billed to the resident’s Housing Account. Non-residents are able to go as guests of residents only; their participation fee must be applied to their hosts’ Housing Account as well.

Please note that Recreation Assistants only work in the evenings. Replies are usually sent within one or two business days.

**Teen Night Out–Fast Forward Skate Center**
Friday, November 13, 6:30-10 p.m.

Middle and High School Teens! You’re invited to the Hip-Hop skate night at the Fast Forward Skate Center. Enjoy an evening roller skating or roller blading to your favorite hip hop mixes, pizza, drinks and tons of fun! Fee: $5 per teen (roller skates) or $7 per teen (roller blades). Also includes school bus transportation to and from Fast Forward. Teen friends are welcome to join. Signed parent permission forms are required for all participating teens to attend. Request yours today at: recreation.assistant@housing.wisc.edu. Teen nights are staffed by University Apartments. Other adults are not allowed on the field trips.

**UW Women’s Basketball Game**
Saturday, November 14, 2 p.m. Game Time

Enjoy the exciting hoop to hoop action of the Badger Women’s Basketball team! They will face off against Louisiana Tech in the team’s home opening game, live at the Kohl Center! Support Big Red with free face painting and take home a free team poster of the Badgers. Fee: $2 each UW students, children (3-17 yrs.), and seniors (55+). Adults $4 each. Transportation #80 Madison Metro bus from the Community Center to the Kohl Center and returning, led by a Recreation Staff leader. Don’t miss the fun, request a form today at: recreation.assistant@housing.wisc.edu. Go Big Red!

**Immigration Law Clinic**
Tuesday, November 17
6:30-7:30 p.m., Community Center, Room 139

This session is a recent addition to our schedule. More information will be available soon, and will be published in the “This Week in the Community” two-week calendar (posted at bus kiosks, and emailed to all residents.) Although individuals will not be able to receive legal advice regarding their personal circumstances, the session will give participants a greater understanding of the processes involved in immigration.
Friday, November 20 - and evening of information and music!

6:45 - 7:30 p.m.
- Winter Driving tips with Officer Brian Whitmore, UW Police Department
  Community Center, Room 135
- Proper Dressing for Winter; Winter Sports with Fontana Sportswear
  Community Center, Room 139

Repeats of the very popular information session that were offered at Wisconsin Fest this year! For more information on just a few of the Winter Driving topics, see page 3.

7:30 - 9:30
- Live music by Retro Specz
  Large Gym

The Retro Specz will ROCK! They play fun, danceable Classic/Retro Rock. On their Facebook page, they describe themselves in this way:

“Generations of musicians and music come together for your classic rock enjoyment. All your favorites with some unexpected tunes. Madison area band covering: REO, Journey, Cheap Trick, Tears for Fears, Van Halen, Queen, Cars, Huey Lewis, Wings, Bon Jovi, Joan Jett, Doobie Brothers, Sister Hazel, Pink, Eagles, Styx, Head East, Black Crowes, Jackson Browne, Aerosmith, Steely Dan, Kansas, etc. you get the idea....”

Johnson Creek Premium Outlet Discount Stores
Friday, November 27, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tis the season to go shopping! Looking for amazing Black Friday steals? This trip is meant for you! Join us for Frenzy Friday shopping sales at the Johnson Creek Premium Outlet. Enjoy super savings off brand name men’s, women’s and children’s apparel, home goods, shoes, accessories and more! Explore 60 different stores including Coach, Adidas, Old Navy, The Children’s Place, Gap, Bath & Body Works and The Nike store. Fee: $9.25 per person. Children 2 years and younger are free travelling in a parent’s lap. Seating is limited. Request your form today at: recreation.assistant@housing.wisc.edu Deadline to sign-up is Monday, November 23rd.

Community Center Movie Night: Finding Nemo
Saturday, November 28, 7 p.m.

Enjoy the ultimate family and friendship bonding experience in Disney’s classic. Nemo, an adventurous young clownfish, is unexpectedly taken from his Great Barrier Reef home to a dentist’s office aquarium. It’s up to his worrisome father Marlin and his friendly but forgetful regal blue tang fish Dory to bring Nemo home — meeting vegetarian sharks, surfer dude turtles, hypnotic jellyfish, hungry seagulls, and more along the way. Kiddos, come in your pj’s, snuggle in blankets and pillows for the best movie night. Snacks and drinks also provided. This event is free and open to the community. Sign-ups are not required.

UW Women’s Hockey Game
Saturday, December 5, Game Time 3 p.m.

See the Four Time NCAA (and WHCA Playoff Champs) Badger Women’s Hockey team face-off against Big Ten rivals the Minnesota Gophers! Live and full of high flying action fun at the LaBahn Arena.

- Ticket Fees
  - UW Students, Youth Ages (3-17 years) and Seniors (55 plus) are $2 each.
  - Adults-$4 each.

Transportation is via the Madison Metro 80 bus, from the Community Center to the UW Field House and returning. Led by a Recreation Staff leader. Be a part of the ice showdown in Badgertown! Request a form today at Recreation. Assistant@housing.wisc.edu. ON WISCONSIN!
Rent a Community Center Room

https://housing.ems.wisc.edu
Do you have an upcoming event? The Community Center has space for you! The cost is more affordable than many other locations, and it is easy to find out what space is available, and how much it would cost. If you have a UW NetID, you will sign in with that. If you do not have one,

Contact the Leasing Office
Leasing@housing.wisc.edu
Do you have a question for Peggy? Do you need to talk to Leasing for any reason? Email first! She will be able to answer your questions, or make an appointment for you. That way, you won’t be disappointed if she is already busy with other residents when you stop by.

Your lease, roommate policies, transfer and termination information, and more can be found on the University Apartments section of the Housing website. http://www.housing.wisc.edu/apartments.htm

Eagle’s Wing Child Care
EaglesWing@housing.wisc.edu
Do you have questions about child care in the Community Center? We welcome any and all questions, comments and suggestions. Based on the topic, your email will be forwarded to the right person to answer your question. To put your child’s name on a waiting list for Eagle’s Wing and/or other campus child care, you can do so at www.housing.wisc.edu/EaglesWing.

When to Request a Repair

If something in your apartment doesn’t work, let us know right away. Repairs will be made even if you are not at home.

Night, weekend, and holiday repairs are only made in urgent situations. If you put in a repair request as soon as you notice a problem, it may keep the problem from getting worse at a time no mechanic is available.

When you need a non-emergency repair, use the Repair website. Only request one repair on each form. The Repairs webpage also has some instructions on small repairs you can make yourself.

When to Contact Resident Managers

A Resident Manager is on Call from 5:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. on weekdays, and 24 hours a day on holidays and weekends. No Resident Manager is on Duty at other times, when the University Apartments Office (in the Community Center) is open.

Due to problems with cell reception (sometimes the Resident Manager on Duty is in a basement) the most efficient and effective way to contact the Resident Manager on Duty is sending a text. Texts or calls should be placed to 608 - 444 - 9308.