OCTOBER • MISSION 10

Building-science guidance for Central Illinois homes

Winter Line Defense

Final checks before the first freeze finds every weak point at once.

/ WHY THIS MONTH?

The first freeze finds every weak point at once. Small sealing tasks now are cheap; water plus cold is what damages homes.

/ THE HOMEOWNER'S MISSION

- Disconnect and drain garden hoses before the first freeze.
- Check door sweeps and thresholds for gaps and wear.
- Close the chimney damper if the fireplace won't be used.
- Walk the exterior for new gaps at siding, hose bibs, and where pipes and cables enter the house.
- Clear gutters after leaf drop — ground-reachable work only; leave roof and ladder work to pros.

/ WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Daylight under exterior doors
- Gaps at pipe and cable penetrations
- Hose bibs still connected, and hoses still attached
- Gutters overflowing or dripping at the seams

/ WHY IT MATTERS

The first freeze finds every weak point at once. Small sealing tasks now are cheap, and water plus cold is what damages homes.

/ WHEN TO CALL GREEN PLATOON

It makes sense to get real data when:

- Drafts that show up with the first cold snap, or you want the envelope checked before winter

An assessment shows where the house is losing heat and where it can wait.

QUICK WIN

Disconnect and drain the garden hoses before the first freeze. 5 minutes.

Home Missions is educational guidance. Never attempt work involving fuel gas, combustion equipment, dangerous electrical conditions, roofs, or hazardous materials.

