

# COTTAGE OPENING TIPS



## Check the power lines

- Walk the property and note any changes over the winter.
- Check surrounding hydro poles and power lines for any damage.
- Keep back 10 metres from downed power lines and call our hotline: 1-800-434-1235.
- If the property had flooding, consult our flood safety tips for information on how to get your power reconnected.
- Schedule a temporary disconnect if you're planning any work near power lines.
- Hire a contractor to trim trees or branches that are too close to power lines.
- If the power line is on Hydro One property, contact us to ask about tree trimming.



## Inspect the exterior

- Do a circle check, looking for signs of animals, damage or vandalism.
- Check your electricity meter. If damaged, report it to 1-888-664-9376.
- Inspect visible wiring to fixtures and equipment. If damaged, remove the fuse or turn off the circuit breaker. Then call a certified electrician.
- If there's any water damage to the property, have your electrical equipment inspected.
- Test to ensure your railings, steps and footings are stable.



## Secure the interior

- Enter with caution. Inspect rooms one by one for any change or damage.
- Check the kitchen cupboards and appliances for signs of pests or animals.
- If you find animal waste, treat it like a health hazard. Call a pest control company.
- Check electrical wiring, appliance cords and plugs for damage.
- Never use appliances or lighting with deteriorated or worn-out electrical cords.



## Power up safely

- Be sure to inspect all interior wiring and electrical outlets first.
- In case of damaged wiring, turn off that circuit breaker or remove the fuse. Call an electrician.
- Ensure fuses are screwed in tightly. Have spares on hand, and don't exceed 15 amps in normal receptacles.
- Make sure all circuit breakers are in the "off" position – both the main breaker and secondary or "branch" circuits.
- Turn the main circuit breaker to the "on" position.
- Next, turn on each secondary circuit breaker one at a time.
- Check each room for flickering lights, burning smells or sparking light fixtures. Have issues addressed immediately.



### Turn on the taps

- Make sure the drain valve at the bottom of the water tank is closed.
- Open a hot water tap at any sink that's higher than the water tank.
- Open the cold water shut-off to the tank.
- Leave the hot water tap opened until water starts flowing.
- Turn on the power to the water heater at the fuse box or electrical panel.
- Check the tank and drain the valve for leaks.



### Get comfortable

- Ventilate the cottage. Open the windows and get the air moving.
- Note any mildew or mold issues and address them immediately.
- Test your heating system to ensure proper functioning.
- If you have a forced-air system, check the air filter. Change as needed.



### Be prepared

- Practise fire safety. Make sure fire extinguishers are fully charged.
- Replace batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Have an emergency kit ready: bottled water, dry foods, flash light and phone charger.
- Be prepared in case of a power outage. Sign up for outage alerts or download the app.
- To report an outage or get an update, call us: 1-800-434-1235.

### WE'RE HERE TO HELP



**1-888-664-9376**

Weekdays 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



**1-800-434-1235** for power outages and emergencies



**CALL OR CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG TO  
LOCATE UNDERGROUND UTILITIES  
1-800-400-2255 • WWW.ON1CALL.COM**



## Outage updates, at your fingertips

We understand how important timely updates can be when the power goes out. That's why we've improved our Outage Map to make it even easier to find key information, when you need it most.

**Learn more [HydroOne.com/OutageMap](http://HydroOne.com/OutageMap)**

**Be Prepared – Download it Today**

**[HydroOne.com/OutageMap](http://HydroOne.com/OutageMap)**

