

HOW TO SUPPORT UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

SHARE INFORMATION

Help neighbors find open warming shelters and overnight shelters during cold weather. Learn more about warming centers and find shelter facilities at denvergov.org/findshelter.

[2-1-1](#) is a resource that connects people to basic needs assistance like food, shelter, rental assistance, childcare, and more. 2-1-1 can also help people outside of the Denver metro area.

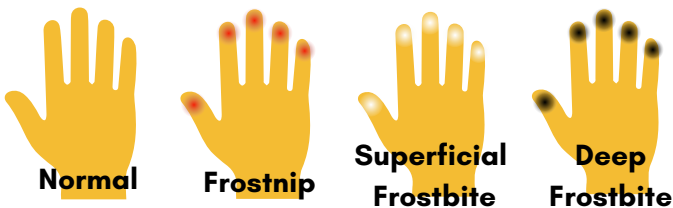
MUTUAL AID

A community is always stronger when we stand together and mutual aid is all about community. Mutual aid is the reciprocal exchange of resources between community members. Mutual aid groups could collect and redistribute money, provide foods and essentials, open a community garden, etc.

RECOGNIZE FROSTBITE

- Cold, numb, hard, or waxy skin
- Tingling, itchy skin
- Gray, white, or very red skin
- Painful skin that turns less painful
- Affected areas that become painful or difficult to move Blistering skin
- Damaged skin that turned black—severe sign!

Individual should seek emergency medical assistance



If you'd like to help the Coalition better assist our neighbors during the winter, buy winter care package items through our [wish list](#).

WINTER SURVIVAL KITS

Winter survival kits are a packet of essentials that help people experiencing homelessness survive the dangerously cold weather.

Some items that may be helpful to have in a winter survival kit or on hand to distribute:

- Hats & gloves
- RTD passes
- Scarves
- Socks
- Underwear
- Hand and feet warmers
- Water bottles and electrolyte packets
- Emergency blankets
- Toiletries
- Feminine hygiene products
- Hand lotion
- Lip balm
- Nonperishable food
- Cash
- Tarps

Please contact the Manager of Volunteer Services & In-Kind Giving to coordinate donation dropoffs at In-Kind-Giving@coloradocoalition.org

OTHER HELPFUL TIPS

- Even a small gift card offers not only food but also access to restrooms or just a place to rest, recover, and get warm.
- Bring water and electrolyte packets as dehydration is very common during cold weather as water supply freezes.
- If you have old coats, gloves, hats, blankets etc., keep them in your car so that you can hand them out to people who need them.
- Tarps are a very useful item to distribute as people use tarps to keep their tent and clothing dry—a critical protective measure to help prevent frostbite.
- Cash is always helpful as someone may need medicine, gas, pet food or something else to survive that is not often distributed.