



## General Manager's Report

As you ready your house for the colder months ahead, don't forget about your water system. When water freezes, it expands. So if the temperature of your pipes drops below 32 degrees, even for a short period, you run the risk of a pipe fracture or worse. Take the following precautions now to avoid a major headache later.

### Inside Your Home

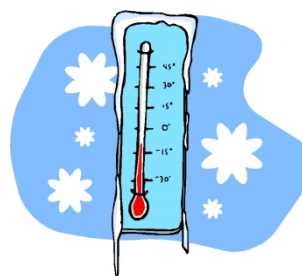
Anywhere cold air blows on a pipe, it creates the potential for freezing. To make sure your pipes are well-insulated, close crawl space vents and stuff insulation over the openings. Even a tiny hole can let a lot of cold air blow in; make sure you fill in all the cracks.

A bathroom or laundry room located above or next to a garage can be particularly vulnerable, so keep the garage door closed to maintain maximum heat.

If your bathroom pipes run along an outside exterior wall, try keeping the vanity door(s) open to allow heat inside. If you're anticipating a deep freeze, consider using a fan to help circulate the air near the pipes, or purchase a small space heater for some extra temporary heat.

Finally, never turn off the heat when you leave home during the winter. Instead, set the temperature to at least 55 degrees F (higher if you've had problems in the past or live in an area of extreme cold). If you have multiple heat zones, be sure to adjust all thermostats appropriately.

On the back of this page you will find other suggestions for preparing your homes for changing weather.



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- Time to remove your hoses from the hose bib, drain and store hoses after each use in a basement, garage, or shed.
- Time to turn off your sprinkling system *don't just turn off the timers.*
- Turn off the main supply (stop and waste) valve, usually located between the meter and the house, or in the basement. If you do not know where your main valve is we suggest you locate it now.
- Please keep water meter lids free of debris, leaves, etc.
- Keep fire hydrants accessible during snowing months by shoveling access as you clear the snow in your yard.
- Please keep water meter lids closed tightly to avoid freezing.
- Inspect your yard, lawn area and look for green growing grass and soft spongy areas prior to snow fall to avoid an unnoticed leak during non read months.
- If you have any questions about these tips please contact the Operations Staff by calling 571-3991.