

Checklist to help prevent damage to your water system caused by freezing temperatures:

Home or Business Pipes and Plumbing:

- ✓ Locate all exposed pipes that carry water. This includes outdoor faucets, bibs, and valves.
- ✓ Remove, drain, and store outdoor hoses inside.
- ✓ Use foam or wrap insulation to cover exposed pipes. You can use towels, blankets, etc. for temporary insulation.
- ✓ Inspect existing insulation and replace it if needed.
- ✓ Seal areas that allow cold air to get in to where pipes are located.

Evaporative Cooler:

- ✓ Disconnect the power supply.
- ✓ Drain the water from the cooler.
- ✓ Disconnect and drain the water line from the cooler.
- ✓ Cover the cooler with canvas or plastic to protect it. This also helps prevent the transfer of air to/from the outside.

Sprinkler Irrigation System:

- ✓ Remove, drain, and store outdoor hoses inside.
- ✓ Consider using a faucet cover on your outdoor faucets. Insulate all above ground pipes and valves.
- ✓ Turn off water supply to irrigation system not just the timer.
- ✓ Drain your system. Consider blowing out your system with air if you have that option available

Backflow Assembly:

- ✓ Turn off water supply to assembly. Drain water from assembly.
- ✓ Insulate or remove the assembly.

Miscellaneous Water Systems:

- ✓ Don't forget to winterize your pools, boats, RV's or any other object that has water in it and may be subject to freezing temps.
- ✓ If you have water storage, such as in 55-gallon barrels as I do, make sure the water level is down at least 10% from the top to allow for freezing.

What to do if you have a frozen pipe

- ✓ Locate the frozen pipe(s) and try gradually warming up the pipe with warm air from hair dryers, heat lamps, etc.

- ✓ Turn on a faucet while defrosting the pipe so that the water will flow again once its thawed.
- ✓ Don't leave pipes and heating devices unattended. Be patient as it may take some time for pipes to thaw.
- ✓ Do not use an open flame due to the risk of fire or pipe damage.
- ✓ Do not pour hot water over a frozen pipe. This can cause pipe damage. If leaking, turn off the main shut-off valve.
- ✓ Locate your water shut-off valve.
- ✓ Know where the main shut-off valve is in case of emergency.