

Winterize Your Water Pipes – Protect Your Home and Save Water

With fall in the air and colder temperatures on the way, we need your help to prevent water loss due to frozen and broken pipes. In past winters, some customers had approximately 20,000 to 40,000 gallons of water loss, with a few customers experiencing up to 200,000 gallons of loss! Prepare for the winter by preventing frozen and broken pipes and the associated property damage and high water bills. Winterize your home using the following checklist:

- Close all vents that were opened for the summer.
- All water lines (both hot and cold) should be wrapped in pipe insulation.
- Water lines near open areas should also have heat tape installed under the insulation.
- If your washing machine or other plumbing fixtures are located in the garage, turn the water off when not using them.

If you are leaving your house unattended:

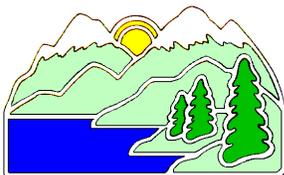
- Shut off all water to the house. District ordinance requires a shut off valve on the customer side of the water meter.
- Drain as much water from the pipes as possible (opening all faucets when doing so will assist in this process and allow any freezing water to expand if freezing occurs).
- If you have your water heater in the garage, do not turn it down to low or off if you go on vacation or leave for the winter – water pipes will freeze without the heat!
- Leave your home heater on at a low temperature to avoid freezing in the house (some water can remain in the pipes even after draining them).
- Be aware that heaters can fail and that leaving your heater on is not a fail-safe method to preventing frozen and broken pipes.
- Install an inexpensive temperature monitor to call you when the temperature drops below the set point.
- Turn off the water valves to your toilets if you cannot turn off the water to your house.

Free Water Conservation Kits

The District is also offering Free Water Conservation Kits for our customers. Kits are available at our main office and at Rideout Community Center. These Kits include the following items, all of which are in a reusable shopping bag:

- Low-flow Shower Head
- Two low-flow, 1 gpm, Faucet Aerators
- Teflon thread sealing tape
- Low-flow hose, metal handle hose nozzle
- 5 minute shower timer
- One packet dye tablets

For more information or ideas, contact the Tahoe City Public Utility District at (530) 580-6278.



Tahoe City
Public Utility District

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