



Tips: How to Prepare Your Home for Cold Weather

The City recommends taking the following precautionary steps to prevent water from freezing in pipes, outdoor water tanks, and irrigation systems, while also conserving energy:

- **Outdoor Spigots:** Ensure they have a constant flow, not just a drip. When you open them, the warm water heats and expands the cold rubber seals, which may cause the water to stop. Start the flow of water and return a few minutes later to ensure it is still running just enough to have a steady flow.
- **Irrigation Systems:** Protect your irrigation systems. If you use a pump rather than city water pressure, turn off the irrigation, close the valves, and drain the pump. Consult your irrigation contractor for more details.
- **Pool Pumps/Filter Systems:** These are vulnerable to freezing. The best protection is to run the pumps during freezing conditions. Contact your pool system contractor for more information.
- **Docks & Outbuildings:** Don't forget about docks or water systems in unheated outdoor buildings.
- **RVs & Campers:** Piping, holding tanks, and water heater systems in RVs and campers are also at risk. To avoid issues, run the RV's heater system on a low setting. Consult your RV maintenance contractor for more guidance.
- **Backflow Prevention Devices (BFD):** BFDs prevent backflow of contaminants into the public water supply. They are common on commercial, industrial, and some residential water services and are often damaged during freezing conditions. Ensure BFDs are insulated to protect from freezing. It's a good idea to have your backflow testing/repair technician insulate the device during the annual inspection/certification. If it is not insulated, running water at the source it feeds will keep water flowing through the backflow preventer and keep it from freezing.
- **Thermostat:** Maintain a consistent temperature on your thermostat. If you need to increase the heat, adjust it gradually by a couple of degrees at a time to avoid engaging the heat strips and save on energy costs.
- **Space Heater:** If you use a space heater, place it on a flat, stable surface away from flammable materials. Never leave it unattended, and ensure it has safety features like an automatic shut-off. It's always a good idea to have a CO2 monitor if you use a space heater.
- **Smoke Detectors:** Always have and maintain smoke detectors in your home. Change batteries (if applicable) at least once a year.

Stay safe and informed!