

UNION PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
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WINTERIZATION TIPS

Don't let winter weather catch you unprepared! Prevent the expense and inconvenience of frozen pipes by taking a few simple steps now.

Insulate Exposed Pipes, Faucets and Protect Pipes Prone to Freezing

Outside faucets, pipes and pipes in unheated garages and crawl spaces are most vulnerable to freezing weather. To help prevent these pipes from freezing, wrap them with insulated material and/or electric heat tape. Cover pipes with plastic and secure with string or wire. ***Keep in mind, in the event of extremely freezing or snowy weather, even well insulated and underground plumbing can freeze.*** Using hot air from a hair dryer, the exhaust from a vacuum cleaner, heat tape or the heat from a light bulb can expedite the thawing process. Light bulbs should always be protected by a cage (trouble light type) and not be placed near flammable materials. ***CAUTION: Never thaw pipes with an open flame.***

Locate Your Main Shut-Off Valve

Don't wait until an emergency. Find your main shut-off valve now! If a pipe happens to break, you can stop excessive water loss, damage and flooding by turning off your main shut-off valve at your meter. If you do not have a main shut-off valve here, it is worth having one installed as it is the owner's responsibility to install and maintain these valves. You may also have a shut-off valve at your residence, which are commonly located in the garage or outdoors by the foundation, often near the front faucet. Test the valve by turning the handle to be sure it's working properly and identify it with a tag.

Caring for Your Vacant House

If you leave your house for several days, take the following steps to help protect the pipes from freezing:

- 1) Turn off the main shut-off valve
- 2) Turn off the Hot Water Heater
- 3) Open indoor and outdoor faucets to drain pipes
- 4) Flush toilet once to drain the tank, but not the bowl
- 5) Leave heat on at a minimum temperature setting to help keep pipes from freezing in interior walls.

Our staff is always available to answer any questions regarding your water account. We wish you a warm & healthy "Happy New Year"!!!