

Fall 2009 WaterWorks Before the Cold Weather Arrives



Now is the best time to winterize your home and your yard. Here are some suggestions that can get you off the couch and out of the refrigerator during half-time:

- **Investigate your home for potential drafts.** Repair cracked or broken windows. Caulk around pipes where they enter the house. Close all foundation vents. Open foundation vents are probably the greatest cause of frozen or split water lines.

- **Protect your outside pipes and faucets.** In some homes, the outside faucet has a separate shut-off in the basement. If you have a separate valve for outside faucets, shut it off.



Then go outside and turn on all the faucets to drain water in the lines. Leave the outside faucets on

while you go back and check your outside shut-off valve for a small brass plug or cap on the valve. Turn this plug far enough that water drains from the valve. Then, tighten the plug back and turn off all the outside faucets.



- **Wrap outside faucets or hose bibs.** Do this if you don't have a separate valve to turn off outside faucets. Use

newspaper or rags covered with plastic, fiberglass or molded foam insulating covers to wrap the faucet. Molded foam insulating covers are available at plumbing and hardware stores. Don't forget to disconnect your water hoses.

- **Drain in-ground sprinkler systems.** Contact your irrigation company.

WINTERIZE YOUR VACANT PROPERTY

Tips to prevent frozen and breaking pipes:

- Turn your water off inside at the main shut off
- Check for leaks before you leave
- Insulate pipes
- Open doors of the kitchen and all bathroom plumbing cabinets
- Periodically monitor property or leave a key with a neighbor or friend
- Sufficient heat must be maintained or the pipes could freeze resulting in costly damage.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Customer Service
(937)781-2688

Permits
(937)781-2653

Night/Emergency
(937)781-2678

General
(937)781-2500

Public Education
(937)781-2532



Know Your Watershed

What is a watershed?



A watershed is an area of land that drains into a common body of water, such as a nearby creek, stream, river or lake. Watersheds vary considerably in size. For example, when it rains, all the water

from a small watershed may travel to a local creek. That creek, like Wolf Creek, will flow into a larger stream, which in turn collects water from an even larger watershed. Wolf Creek flows into the Great Miami River, which then deposits into the Ohio River. **We all live in a watershed.**

What is the problem?

During the construction of homes, roads and office buildings, vegetation is often removed and replaced by large paved areas. These **impervious surfaces** keep rain from seeping into the soil and recharging groundwater supplies. Paved surfaces also increase the speed and amount of water that rushes down gutters and into storm drains during a rain storm. This **stormwater runoff** picks up pollutants from motor oil, lawn chemicals, pet waste, salt, litter and soil along the way, before flowing to rivers, lakes and streams — **untreated**.

What is the consequence?

The large amounts of untreated water entering the storm sewer system - and eventually our streams and lakes - has lasting health, safety, environmental and economic impacts on our watersheds and communities. Watersheds support a wide variety of plants and wildlife and provide outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the Miami Valley.

Protecting the health of our watersheds preserves and enhances the quality of life for Montgomery County residents and all those living downstream.



Photo by Dusty Hall

Thinking about watersheds helps remind us that our actions can impact — for better or for worse — all of the streams and rivers in our region.

and for the kids...

SPLASH'S WORD SCRAMBLE



Put the letters in the right order to complete the sentence!

Everyone lives in a _____ . It's the
(aterwheds)
land that _____ flows across, or under, on its way to a lake,
(treaw)
stream, or _____. You and _____ in your
(rveir) (eryevone)
watershed are part of your watershed community. The _____,
(hifs)
birds, and _____ are, too! My friend Dewey told me
(malsian)
that Montgomery County's watershed flows eventually into the
Gulf of _____!
(icoMxe)

Visit my website at www.DeweyandSplash.org for more fun water games!