

Fall 2011 WaterWorks

Before the temperatures fall:

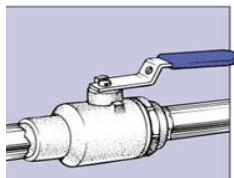


Each winter many of our customers are faced with frozen water pipes. This situation may result in expensive plumbing repairs and possible water damage. Here are a few tips that may help you to avoid freezing water pipes:

INSULATE

Insulate pipes in any unheated portion of the home. These areas include exterior walls, crawl spaces, basements, cabinets or any other enclosure where air cannot circulate. Be on the look out for damp insulation; water soaked insulation can cause freeze-ups. Wrap outside faucets or hose bibs if you do not have a separate valve to turn off outside faucets. Caulk around pipes where they enter the house.

LOCATE SHUT-OFF VALVE



Knowing where your main shut off valve is located and if it is operable is important regardless of the weather! Take time to actually turn it off and back on to ensure that is working. If your water pipe springs a leak, knowing where the shut-off valve is could save you thousands of dollars in water damage repairs. Make sure the family knows where to find this valve.

WATER METER PROTECTION

Check the outside meter box to make sure the cover is not broken, missing, or out of place. Any of these conditions will allow cold air to enter causing the box's insulation to lose its effectiveness. Broken or missing covers should be reported to us by calling 781-2678.

CHECKLIST FOR ALL VACANT PROPERTIES

- Turn your water off inside at the main shut-off.
- Drain the plumbing.
- Check for leaks.
- Leave a key with a friend or neighbor.
- Insulate pipes.
- Open doors of kitchen and bathroom plumbing cabinets.
- Consider having water service disconnected. Call our Customer Services Group at 781-2688 to discuss your options and billing arrangements. Quarterly service charges/connection fees will be applied even if there is no consumption.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

www.mcoho.org/water

Customer Service
(937)781-2688

Permits
(937)781-2653

Night/Emergency
(937)781-2678

General
(937)781-2500

Public Education
(937)781-2532

and for the kids...

Water Saving Ideas for Kids

- When you clean your fish tank, use the old water on your plants. It is good for them.
- Turn off water while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
- Tightly turn off water faucets. No drips allowed!
- When you give your pets fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your plants.



Visit www.DeweyandSplash.org
for more fun and information!

“Please don't soil our waters!”



It's no fish story!

Soil erosion is our #1 water pollutant.

Believe it or not, the biggest threat to the Miami Valley's water quality is plain old dirt. Soil washes into our rivers, lakes and streams...from our lawns, roads, driveways, and construction sites.

What's wrong with soil?

It clogs waterways and damages fishes' gills. Soil carries contaminating oil and other chemicals into our water.

What can you do? A few simple things are a great start:

- Seed and mulch any bare soil on your land.
- Repair and stabilize places where you see soil eroding.
- Minimize the time soil is exposed when you do construction or landscaping.