

Leaving for the Winter?

- When leaving town for extended periods of time with the heat left off or turned drastically down, it is advisable to turn the water off at the shut-off valve and drain the lines.



Beware of sagging lines which may not completely drain. Many plumbers offer this service.

- Drain spas, swimming pools, fountains and ponds of water.
- Make sure that your insurance coverage is adequate for being absent during the winter. Due to the increased potential for something to go wrong (e.g., burst water pipes, leaking gas heating systems etc.), insurance companies can be tough on requirements. Ask about special requirements for vacation homes and for homes vacant due to traveling or temporarily relocating elsewhere.
- Leave your keys with family or a neighbor and ask that they check on your house during prolonged periods of cold weather.
- Contact our Customer Service Department at (937) 781-2688 and ask that your bills be forwarded. Even though you may not be consuming any water there are service connection fees that will be applied to your account during your absence.



On-line Resources

- www.awwa.org
- www.epa.gov
- www.earth911.org
- www.wateruseitwisely.com
- www.savingwater.org
- www.thefrugallife.com

and for the kids...

Montgomery County's own

www.deweyandsplash.org



Cold Weather Precautions

Montgomery County Water Services

1850 Spaulding Road

Kettering, OH 45432

Phone: 937-781-2500

www.mcoho.org/water

Plumbing Information

COLD WEATHER PRECAUTIONS



MONTGOMERY
C O U N T Y

WATER SERVICES

www.mcoho.org/water

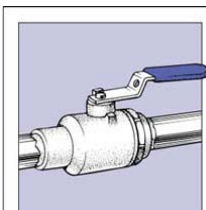
Each winter many of our customers are faced with frozen water pipes. This situation may result in expensive plumbing repairs and possible water damage.

Here are a few tips that may help you to avoid freezing water pipes:

Before temperatures fall...

LOCATE SHUT-OFF VALVE

Knowing where your main shut off valve is located is important regardless of the weather! If your water pipe springs a leak, knowing where the shut-off valve is could save you thousands of dollars in water damage repairs.



Shut-off Valve

The shut-off valve is usually located a short distance from the point the water line enters the house. Water lines may enter the house through the floor in furnace or utility rooms.

If you have a basement or lower level, the water line may enter through the side wall. Other areas where the valves may be located are near water heaters and water softeners.

It is a good idea to turn the valve off and on 3 times once every six months. Make sure all connections on the water line around the shut-off valve are in good condition before attempting any twisting or turning of the valve.

Note: If you are unable to locate your shut-off valve or determine its condition, you may want to contact your plumber to assist.

When freezing weather occurs...

OPEN DOORS BELOW SINK

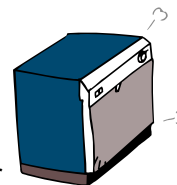
If a sink is located against an outside wall, open the vanity or cabinet doors to allow warm air to reach the water pipes inside.

DURING PERIODS OF EXTREME COLD

When temperatures have been below freezing for a period of days, turn on a faucet for a few seconds every hour. Alternate faucets if more than one is located on an outside wall. If below-freezing weather continues for several days, it may be necessary to adjust a faucet to allow a fast drip-like stream. Your water bill may be higher but this could help you to avoid the expense of repairing or replacing a frozen meter or frozen water pipes - and the inconvenience of being without water. Another alternative is to stagger your water use throughout the day and night.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Start a load of laundry before leaving for work or going to bed.
- You can also do smaller loads with lower water levels throughout the day. You may have to do more loads, however the key is to keep the water flowing at different intervals.
- Many dishwashers have timers; set the timer to start the wash cycle in the middle of the night or during the day while you are out of the house.
- Take your shower at night. This helps to offset the time between the dinner dishes and the next morning.
- Ice makers help by moving small amounts of water through the lines.



More important tips...

WHO TO CALL

If you are having problems with one faucet or plumbing system, call your plumber. If your whole house is without water, call us at 781-2688.

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 by calling 781-2688.



ELIMINATE DRAFTS

Keep the basement and the garage doors tightly closed. Windows should be closed and caulked. Close off crawl space vents and doors. Seal cracks in walls of basement or crawl space.

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.

CAUTION

**SHOULD A PIPE FREEZE NEVER
THAW WITH AN OPEN FLAME**

TIP

A HAIRDRYER CAN SOMETIMES HELP