



CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

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PREVENTION

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 insulating material and/or electric heat tape. Cover pipes with plastic and secure with string or wire. However, 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 to be placed near flammable materials. **CAUTION:** Never Thaw pipes with an Open Flame.

Locate Your Main Shut-Off Valve

Don't wait for an emergency. Find your main shut-off valve now! If a pipe breaks, you can stop excessive water loss 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 by a plumber. You may also have a shut-off valve up at your residence, which are commonly located in the basement, 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.

Winterize Your Vacant House

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

1. Turn off main shut-off valve.
2. Turn off 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 your heat on at a minimum temperature setting to help keep pipes from freezing in interior walls.

Never leave water running in a vacant house.

CAUTION!

Use only heavy-duty extension cords outside with ground plug (the extension cord should never be lighter duty than the appliance cord). Assure that extension cord connections and attached appliances are thoroughly protected from moisture and exposure to the weather.

During freezing weather our service staff handles a large number of calls. If you call for assistance, please be prepared to wait until a representative can help you.