

## **Freezing Weather:**

- Cover outdoor water valves and spigots when the temperatures dip below 32 degrees. A fitted plastic cover can be found at most hardware and home improvement stores, but tape and cardboard wrapped around the spigot can be just as effective.
- Wrap exposed water pipe in the basement or crawl space. This insulates them against freezing and helps to prevent water waste by keeping the water in the pipes warmer.
- Invest in a water heater blanket. This can save water and help cut water and heating bills. These are available at most hardware and home improvement stores.
- Shut down your irrigation system for the system. When temperatures begin to dip, the PVC piping in most irrigation systems is vulnerable to freezing and rupture. Every year turn off the system at the main control and open each valve until the entire system drains of water. After the system is drained, close each valve and leave the system shut off until early spring.
- When the temperature is below 32 degrees open cabinet doors to expose pipes to heat and drip the faucet overnight in order to prevent freezing.
- If you notice your pipes are frozen, it is best to shut off the water at your main shut off valve and allow the pipes to thaw. Once thawed, have a licensed plumber come out to assess the damage and make repairs. By turning off your water at the main valve you avoid losing water through the ruptured pipe preventing the loss of water, money and any property that might be damaged.
- During the winter it is best to shut off your main water valve anytime you are leaving the home overnight. Additionally, turn on a faucet to allow all the water in the pipes to drain out. This simple preventive measure can lessen the chance of a major leak that results in high bills, wasted water, and damage to your property.