

BE WINTER READY

When cold weather arrives, the Victorville Water District encourages our customers to make preparations during the winter season to prevent water leaks and ice hazards. If you are unsure how to winterize your home or building, consult with a professional or winterizing specialist.

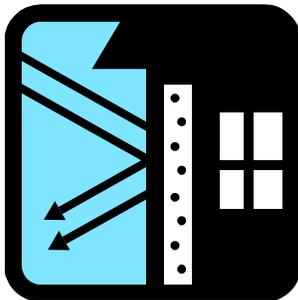
WHY PIPE FREEZING IS A PROBLEM

Water has a unique property in that it expands when it freezes. This expansion puts tremendous pressure on whatever is containing it, including metal or plastic pipes. No matter the “strength” of a container, expanding water can cause pipes to break. Pipes that freeze most frequently are those that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines, and water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets. Also, pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation are subject to freezing. Pipe freezing is a particular problem in warmer climates like Victorville where pipes often run through uninsulated or under insulated attics or crawl spaces.



PREPARING FOR WINTER, TAKE PREVENTIVE ACTION

- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and the night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- Insulate outside faucets, above ground pipes and hose bibs to prevent against leaks caused by freezing. Use rags covered in plastic, fiberglass, or preformed foam.
- Adjust sprinkler times to prevent irrigation water from flowing off the landscape and on to sidewalks and streets. Freezing temperatures along with water can create ice and present a slipping hazard. Apply irrigation water slowly, so the soil can absorb it. If water begins to run off, stop sprinkling until water is absorbed.
- Consider relocating exposed pipes to provide increased protection from freezing. Pipes can be relocated by a professional if the home is remodeled.



- Add insulation to attics, basements, and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain higher temperatures in these areas.
- If you are going away during the winter, leave the heat on in your home no lower than 55 degrees F and open kitchen and bathroom cabinets so warm air from the room circulates around pipes. Designate a person to check your house regularly; show them where the main water shut-off valve is located.

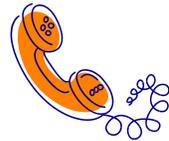
DURING COLD WEATHER, AVOID FROZEN PIPES



- Turn on a faucet to let water dribble in the plumbing where pipes run through cold spaces since running water doesn't freeze as quickly as still water. By temporarily running water through the faucet, you may incur a higher water bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- In case of an emergency, know the location of your water supply shut-off valve.

IF YOUR PIPES FREEZE

- If your pipes break due to freezing, contact the Victorville Water District at (760) 955-5001 to have your water shut off for repairs. The District cannot "unfreeze" or repair customer pipes that are broken.
- Contact a professional to make needed repairs and insure that all leaks are accounted for.



WINTER WATERING

Once the leaves fall off your trees, it's time to turn off or reduce irrigation. Low temperatures (below 65 degrees F) can cause plants to go dormant or slow growth since photosynthesis is slowed down at low temperatures. Frost or dew in the morning is enough water to sustain most plant material and grass through the winter. If plant material is not growing, no water or nutrients are taken in by the roots or leaves.

Turning off your irrigation controller and irrigation valves will also prevent broken pipes and water leaks. Make sure the timer is turned to the "OFF" position when rain or cold are predicted.

