

Winterization To-Do List

Irrigation System

1. Your first steps will be to shut off and drain the irrigation system. It only takes a few minutes and can save hundreds of dollars in repair costs and water bills.
 - a. Locate the main irrigation valve and drain - they may be in a vertical plastic pipe or in your green irrigation box.



- i. First, use a sprinkler key to close the main irrigation valve by turning it to the right.
 - ii. Then using the same key, open the drain by turning it to the left.
 - b. Locate the backflow device.



- i. Turn both flat handles 90 degrees to the closed position.
 - ii. Using a flat head screw driver, turn both “test cock” screws 90 degrees (in either direction) to drain the device.
 - iii. Now turn both flat handles halfway back to original position so that they are at a 45 degree angle. This will prevent water from being trapped in the device.
 - iv. It’s a good idea to cover your backflow with a weatherproof cover, but this is not necessary.

- c. Turn your irrigation controller to the “off” position. All your watering times and data will be saved.
- d. It is always a good idea to check your water meter to make sure that everything has been shut off properly. If your meter shows usage, you should go back and check your work.

**Please note that not every home will have all of these devices and, therefore, your steps may vary.

2. Next you will want to disconnect and drain any outdoor hoses. This will prevent any burst pipes due to a hard overnight freeze.

Indoors

It is best to consult a licensed plumber when winterizing a home indoors. Here are a few of our recommendations:

1. Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas (garage, crawl space). Appropriate pipe insulating materials can be purchased at local hardware or building supply stores.
2. Seal off access doors, air vents and cracks. Be sure not to plug air vents that the furnace or water heater need for safe operation.
3. Indoor temperatures should be kept above 55 degrees.
4. Allow warm air to circulate under the sink by leaving the cabinet doors open on colder days.

Just In Case

1. Know the location of your master water shut-off valve. In many homes it's where the water line enters the house from the street. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house, this valve turns off all the water and will prevent damage inside the home.
2. Always have a plumber's telephone number handy just in case you discover a broken or frozen pipe. In the event of a broken pipe, TMWA's emergency line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (775) 834-8090.