



# BE READY FOR WINTER WEATHER



## WINTERIZATION: TIP 1

### TURN OFF SPRINKLER SYSTEMS



#### Turn off your sprinkler systems

It's important to turn your sprinkler system off to not only prevent burst pipes, but also to protect sidewalks and roads from accumulating ice. Current forecasts show weather conditions to be likely to cause hazardous travel - no need to add to that by unknowingly running your sprinkler system!

## WINTERIZATION: TIP 2

### DISCONNECT GARDEN HOSES



#### Disconnect your garden hoses

Now is a good time to disconnect your garden hoses from outdoor spigots. Water expands when it freezes, so taking this precaution lessens the risk of your pipes freezing and bursting. Even homeowners with "frost-free" spigots should still remove hoses during the winter for the utmost protection.

## WINTERIZATION: TIP 3

### COVER OUTDOOR FAUCETS

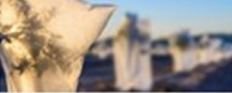


#### Cover your outdoor faucets

Faucet covers work by trapping heat that naturally radiates through the interior pipes to the outdoor spigot. By trapping the heat, the insulated cover helps prevent water in the faucet from freezing, expanding, and rupturing the spigot. Outdoor faucet covers come in several different styles and can be found in most home goods stores.

## WINTERIZATION: TIP 4

### PROTECT VULNERABLE PLANTS



#### Protect vulnerable outdoor plants

When a deep freeze is expected like this week, first cover your plants with sheets or blankets and then cover with plastic to help keep warmth in. Never cover a plant with just plastic, however, as the plastic will damage the plant. Make sure that a cloth barrier is between the plastic and the plant, and remember to remove as soon as the temps start to rise above freezing.



### Protect people and pets

In addition to the first four tips for property, it's also very important to check-in on elderly neighbors, family and anyone you know that may be vulnerable in these wintry conditions. And don't forget to bring in outdoor pets or provide a warm cover to protect them from the cold temperatures.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES — PASS IT ALONG...



### Follow the National Weather Service - Fort Worth/Dallas

The DFW-area office of the [National Weather Service](#) has some good information on how to prepare for this week's expected winter weather. In addition to the tips already listed, you can have rock salt and shovels ready for driveways and sidewalks. Make sure to have non-perishable food essentials, a first aid kit, firewood, batteries and flashlights ready just in case of power outages.

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### FEMA wants you to be prepared before winter weather hits

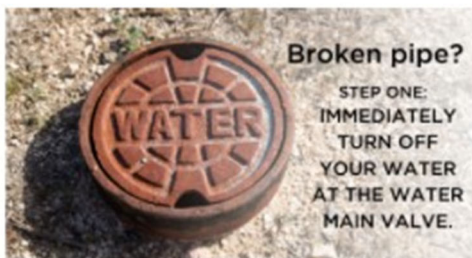
In addition to regularly checking the forecast at [weather.gov](#), FEMA has tips for protecting your family, pets, and property to get you prepared for cold weather. This might be a good time to make sure your winter car kit has all you need to stay safe should you get stranded. Being prepared for extreme cold weather can save your life and those of the ones you love.

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### Broken Pipes and Water Leaks Can Waste Thousands of Gallons

It's vital to take immediate action to isolate leaks and minimize water loss. Contact your city or water utility if you need help shutting off your water main valve and for more information in isolating leaks and breaks. Regardless of where the pipe burst occurs, the effects can be devastating and result in thousands of gallons of water lost. Learn more about how much water various types of home plumbing can lose if damaged during freeze events.



### What To Do If Your Pipes Break as Temperatures Rise

As temperatures warm up after the expected freezing weather, many may experience ruptured pipes when they begin to thaw. The first and most important step you need to take is to **turn off your water immediately**. If you notice any outdoor leaks or breaks in your neighborhood, report them immediately to your city or water utility. Please make sure to only use 9-1-1 for police, fire or life-threatening medical help. Contact your utility for power and water emergencies.