



# WaterWise Weekly

August 24, 2009

## Preparing for Below Freezing Temperatures: How to protect your home and property against pipe bursts

Warm summer temperatures may still be hanging around, but it is never too early to prepare for winter. Freezing temperatures can cause pipe breaks and leaks when precautionary measures are not taken, wasting thousands of gallons of water and causing substantial property damage. Here are some tips to prepare for winter and below freezing temperatures.

- Wrap all exposed pipes located outside or in unheated areas of the home.
- Remove garden hoses from outside faucets. Insulate outside faucets with styrofoam covers.
- Know where your property's cut-off valve is located and how to use it. Apply oil such as WD-40 to the cut-off valve before operating to prevent the valve from breaking. The valve is located adjacent to the water meter box under a 6" metal lid.
- Keep areas with water pipes heated.

**This is your last issue of WaterWise Weekly. Thank you for your participation in the WaterWise program. We hope you learned a few new tips and tricks for water conservation and remember to keep up the good work through the fall and winter!**



### **Irrigation Users:**

Adjust your system to apply at **85%** of your full cycle time

Click [HERE](#) for a sample irrigation schedule

### **Sprinkling Restrictions:**

Remember, from May 1 - September 30, use of the city water supply system for lawn and garden sprinkling, irrigation, car washing, or other non-potable uses is limited to an odd/even schedule corresponding to your property address.

If your address ends in an even number, you may sprinkle on even days of the month. If your address ends in an odd number, you may sprinkle on odd days of the month.

## Preparing for Below Freezing Temperatures: How to protect your home and property against pipe bursts, continued

- In heated areas, open cabinet doors under sinks adjacent to outside walls if not well-insulated.
- Take extra precautions to protect pipes that have frozen in the past.
- Seal cracks in outside walls near water pipes. A small draft through an outside crack can freeze water quickly.
- Insulate outside walls between pipes and heated areas.
- If pipes freeze, turn off the water at the shut-off. This will minimize or prevent water damage after thawing a pipe that is split. Heat room air in the area where the frozen pipe is located. Open a faucet in the home beyond the freeze area. As the pipe is warmed, periodically test by turning the water on at the shut-off. A room fan can be used to pass warmer room air over a pipe. Also a hair dryer can be used to warm a pipe. Never use an open flame.

### If you are not going to be at home for extended periods:

- Shut off water at property's cut-off valve
- Water softeners should be drained and protected from freezing temperatures. Open the bypass around the water softener.
- Leave home heating system on at a low setting (at least 60 F).
- Open cabinet doors under sinks adjacent to outside walls.

### Resources:

Click [HERE](#) for more information about preventing & repairing freezing pipes.

## Learning Opportunities & Events

### Summer Exhibition “Waterosity: Go Green with a Splash” June 6-October 4 Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

This program explores the interdependence of people, plants, and water through several interactive displays and exhibits.

“*The Cutting Edge*” demonstrates the lawn grasses of the future, while providing information on water-wise living and landscaping as part of the “Waterosity” exhibit at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Visit [www.arboretum.umn.edu](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu) for more information.



## Monthly Drawing! August Prize 4 Gate Passes To:



Minnesota Landscape  
**ARBORETUM**

Drawing Today!