

From the Tap...



Winterizing Tips

Fall is an excellent time to begin preparing your home for the coming winter weather.

One of the most important preparations you can make is to locate and check the valves for your outside spigots and the main shut-off valve for the house.

Outside spigots should be turned off at the cut-off valve inside the home when freezing weather is forecast. Be sure to drain the line after turning off the spigot feed line. If you only turn off the feed line, there still may be water remaining in the line that can freeze and break the pipe. If that happens, when you turn the water on again, water will leak from the break. However, simply opening the spigot to drain the line may



Be sure to open anti-siphon devices, if installed, to fully drain lines.

not be enough. Some spigots have anti-siphon devices installed that must be opened to properly drain the line. You should consult a plumber if you are unsure about how to properly drain your lines.

It is a good idea to locate, check for proper operation, and mark your main-line valve. The main-line valve controls water flowing into your house. Marking the valve will allow you to quickly turn off the water in

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case of a burst pipe or other water problems. It is also helpful if the water must be turned off to make repairs.

Water lines that may be exposed to freezing air, such as lines in a crawl

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Proposed Revision of Rates, Fees and Charges

Fairfax Water is proposing revisions to its Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges, to be effective with meter readings taken on or after April 1, 2007. Even with these revisions, Fairfax Water rates will remain the lowest in the region.

The proposed revisions include increases in the Water Usage (Commodity) Charge from \$1.50 to \$1.55 per 1,000 gallons. Also proposed are increases in the

turn on/off charge, re-turned-check charge, the account charge, and service connection and local facilities charges for new connections to the distribution system. A description of these charges can be found on the back of your water bill or at www.fairfaxwater.org.

A public hearing on the proposed revisions is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2006, at Fairfax Water's offices located at

8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, Virginia. Directions can be found on our website. To speak at the hearing or obtain a copy of the proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges, please call (703)698-5600, or visit our website at www.fairfaxwater.org.

The proposed increase in the Water Usage (Commodity) Charge (from \$1.50 to \$1.55 per 1,000 gallons) will mean an increase of \$1.20 per

quarter, or \$4.80 per year, for an average customer's water bill.



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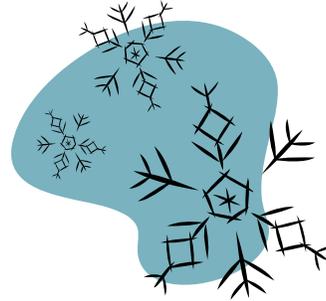
space or other unheated space, should be insulated and wrapped in heat tape.

Here are some other things to consider this winter:

- Never try to thaw a frozen pipe with an open flame or torch.
- Be aware of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.
- If you will be away from your home for an extended period, keep the thermostat at a reasonable temperature to make sure all areas with water pipes are kept above freezing. If you cannot maintain heat inside your home, you should take further steps to prevent damage, such as turning off the main water supply and draining your plumbing.

What do I do if my water meter freezes?

If you suspect you have a frozen water meter, call us for help. Our service crews are available 24 hours a day and will respond as soon as possible to your request. You can reach our Customer Service Department at (703) 698-5800. The after-hours emergency number is (703) 698-5613.



Water-Saving Tip...



#9. Plant during the fall or spring when the watering requirements are lower.

You have probably heard the old adage, "Plant in the fall for spring flowers." That's good advice! Planting in the fall will ensure that your bulbs or perennial plants establish a good root system for healthy and full foliage and flowers.

During the fall, evapo-transpiration (water transpired through foliage plus normal evaporation) rates are low and growth rates are slower, thereby allowing your plants to establish strong root systems. Be sure to add plenty of mulch around new plantings, as well as your established plants to help retain moisture and prevent weed growth.

For more information and other water-saving tips, visit <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/>.



Editor's Note

If you have comments or suggestions about this publication, let us hear from you.

E-mail us at jbailey@fairfaxwater.org or write us at the address below. If you have questions regarding water service, please call Customer Service at (703) 698-5800.

For all other departments, call (703) 698-5600; After-hours emergency, call (703) 698-5613, TTY (703) 698-7025.

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