



Winter/Early Spring Newsletter | 2025

Winterize Your Water Use: Water Conservation Tips for the Cold Season

Often people only consider water conservation in the summer, but there are several things you can do to save water in the winter as well. Check out these Winter Water Conservation Tips:

- Make sure your exposed outdoor pipes and hose bibs are securely covered with pipe insulation. This will ensure that they won't freeze or develop any leaks. It will also prevent the pipes from bursting.
- If your pipes do freeze, wrapping them with rags and repeatedly pouring warm water over the rags may thaw them. Once the pipes thaw, rewrap them with dry materials.
- Check for leaks after any thaws. A change in temperature can cause pipes to expand and contract, which may lead to more leaks.

Looking for Leaks: Irrigation Systems

The most frequent leaks in a home are usually found in the irrigation system. This system typically includes a backflow prevention device, valves, underground pipes, emitters or sprinkler head, and an irrigation controller.

First, start by inspecting your property for any visible leaks. Examine the backflow prevention device and irrigation valves, and look for wet areas, small holes, or depressions, as these might suggest an underground leak. Next, turn on the irrigation system and walk around your property again to identify any leaks that only appear when the system is running.

Inspect backflow prevention device for leaks.

- Occasional dripping or squirting may indicate that backflow prevention occurred and might not necessarily be a leak.
- A puddle of water on the ground or continuous dripping may indicate a leak or possible failure of the backflow prevention device.

Inspect Sprinkler Heads and Drip Irrigation

- Visually inspect equipment and property.
- Look for missing or broken drip irrigation emitters or cracked tubing. Water should trickle rather than squirt from emitters.
- Check wiper seals between the neck and base of the sprinkler heads. Water will seep out of a worn seal.

