

FIRST FREEZE

Tips to Winterize Your Home Plumbing

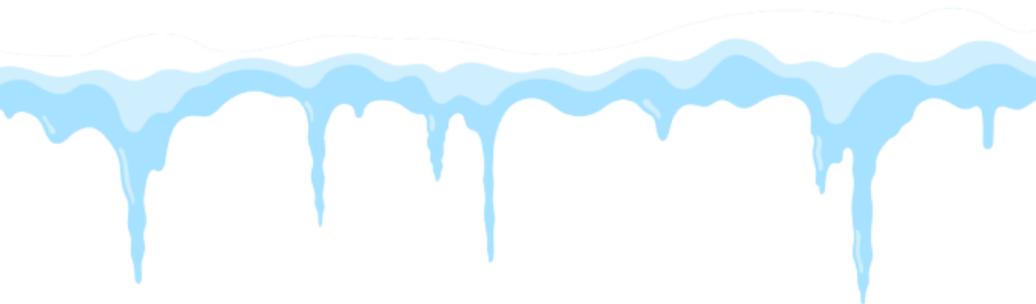
BEFORE the **FREEZE**

disconnect hoses, home irrigation backflow devices & other outdoor fixtures; install faucet covers.

seal vents or openings in exterior of home to help insulate plumbing.

insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas to protect your pipes from the freezing temps.

find master shutoff valve in case you need to turn water off quickly.



DURING the **FREEZE**

install heat tape or heat cable on exposed water lines or pipes.

close garage door to help insulate water line & hot water heater.

open kitchen or bathroom cabinets if the sink is on an exterior wall.

allow faucet to drip slowly to keep water moving and prevent it from freezing inside the pipes.

For more home water tips, including ways to save, visit **WHUD.org** & click on **Community Education**.

White House  Utility District

(615) 672-4110 | www.whud.org

UNDERSTANDING

Your Water Pressure

Many homes have pressure reducing valves (PRVs) that adjust the amount of water pressure placed on your pipes. PRVs typically only last 4-5 years before they need to be replaced, but because most are out-of-sight, it's easy to forget about them.



Two tell-tale signs that your PRV may have gone bad is a sudden increase in pressure at your home or a quick burst of water when you turn on the faucet followed by decreased flow. Similarly, if your PRV has been in place for more than five (5) years, it may need to be replaced. If your current PRV has been in place for less than five years, and you experience these issues, it may simply need to be adjusted.

If you aren't sure if you have a PRV, they are typically located in one of three places:

1. directly behind your meter box,
2. on the line coming into your garage near the water heater, or
3. on a line coming into your home under your house.

PRVs are typically brass, shaped like a bell and about the size of a softball. They may be installed on their side or upside down.

If you suspect your PRV has gone bad or needs adjusting, you may want to contact a licensed plumber for assistance.

If your home doesn't have a PRV and you hear a "banging" sound in your pipes or experience "spitting" or "burtsing" when you first turn on the faucet, there are some things you can do:

1. Contact our office. We may be able to provide information such as the expected pressure range for your neighborhood.
2. Invest in a pressure gauge. Pressure gauges can be found at any hardware store and will help you determine the water pressure at your home. If your home water pressure is above 90 psi, you may need a PRV.
3. Contact a professional plumber for assistance.