



Winterization Check List

Note that when pipes freeze, water pressure builds causing cracks, no matter if the pipe is made of plastic, copper or steel. Keep in mind that when we are winterizing plumbing we are not trying to heat things very warm, we just need to keep it above 32 degrees. Maintaining a temperature of about 35 degrees will prevent freeze problems. Fisher's Supply is your source for winterizing supplies such as pipe insulation, ceramic heaters, heat lamps, electric heat tape, faucet covers, and more.

Insulate Exposed Piping - If you have any exposed plumbing in uninsulated spaces, such as in a crawlspace, attic, outside walls, pump houses, etc., make sure to insulate them with foam insulation at a minimum, or for better freeze protection, electric heat tape.

Pump House Heat - It can also be a good idea to install a heat lamp or small utility heater in your pump house. Both items are inexpensive and a simple inexpensive thermostat can assure they are only on when the temperature drops below freezing. Remember, we only need to keep the temperature above freezing, not heat to a comfortable living temperature.

Exterior Faucets - Outside hose bibs can and will freeze if not winterized. If your home is equipped with interior shut-off valves leading to outside faucets, close them and drain water from the pipes. You may also want to consider an insulated cover for the hose bib. And remember to disconnect your garden hoses from the sill cocks or outside faucets and drain them if you store them outside.

In Ground Irrigation - If you have an in ground sprinkler system you may want to go through the winterization process. Turn off the main isolation valve and open any manual drain valves in the system. If you have above ground valves be sure to drain and/or insulate them. It is not a bad idea to put some extra insulation in your in ground valve boxes to help keep in ground components from freezing.

If you have a well pump and do not have water after a freeze read below.

After a freeze the most common cause of no water is a frozen pipe nipple leading to the pressure switch. The nipple is generally a 1/4" pipe and one of the first pieces of plumbing to freeze. If it does this it will prevent your switch from turning the pump on, or even the possibility of not letting the pump turn off once it is running which can lead to severe pump damage. If you discover that your pump is not working after a freeze we suggest trying to thaw that nipple as a starting point. A simple hair dryer will usually be enough to do the trick however cautious use with a heat gun, propane torch, or other heat source can be used more effectively.

