



# Winterizing Checklist

**Each Winter, the District experiences large amounts of water waste due to homes being improperly winterized. GCS D has created a check list, to help seasonal homeowners prepare for the winter months.**

Plumbing is especially susceptible to cold weather and freezing. Burst pipes from freezing can cause some of the most expensive repairs in the home. So let's go over some of the basics to make sure you have them covered.

## **Insulate Exposed Piping**

Be sure to insulate any exposed water or drain piping in uninsulated spaces such as in a crawlspace, attic, outside walls, etc., with foam insulation at a minimum. Ideally you should wrap them with electrical heating tape first, and then insulate them with Pipe wrap.

## **Exterior Faucets**

Otherwise known as hose bibbs or sill-cocks; need to have water supply turned off inside the house, and you also need to drain water from it by opening up the exterior faucet. You may also want to consider an insulated cover for the hose bibb. Remember to disconnect your garden hoses from the sill cocks or outside faucets and drain them if you store them outside.

## **Seasonal Shut Down**

If you are shutting down a property for several months you should always shut off the water supply (must contact GCS D or have personal shut off valve at the meter) and drain the plumbing system. If a leak were to occur without occupancy, the damage could be catastrophic. To drain the plumbing system (depressurizing pipes) proceed as follows:

- Turn off the Water Main: ***All GCS D customers should install a shut off valve on their side of the meter. If the curb stop is damaged there is a \$500 replacement charge.***
- Starting at the top floor, open all the sink faucets;
- Go to the lowest level in your home and open the faucet water from the above floors drain out;
- Now go back upstairs or to the highest level in the home and open the tub/shower faucets, and flush toilets;
- Continue the process at lower levels.

## **Pressure Reducing Valve**

Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV) should be tested annually by a certified plumber. The PRV is usually located where the water service enters the house (often under the house). The pressure reducing valve helps protect your water pipes and appliances from high water pressure. PRV's are required by the plumbing code.

## **Hot Water Heater**

When winterizing Hot Water heaters should be turned off. This is a perfect opportunity to flush and drain your hot water heater, as it should be flushed and drained on an annual basis.