

# Suggestions for Winterizing Your Home

Completely **turning off** the **water** to your property is the most reliable way to **avoid** frozen and broken pipes, which can cause serious and **costly property damage** and water loss

## *Full shut down of your water:*

### Indoors:

- Turn water off at your shut-off valve (not at the water meter).
- Open all faucets, starting with the lowest one and working upward.
- Drain water heater. Remember to leave pressure relief valve open.



### Outdoors:

- If you have a drip irrigation system, turn it off at the master valve. Disconnect it from the supply line and drain it by opening the lowest end of the system.
- Disconnect and drain all garden hoses.
- Annually Inspect and repair as needed your **pressure reducing valve** located near your main house water valve (usually in your basement where the water line enters the house from the meter). If you don't have a pressure reducing valve, you must install one.

### Heat:

- It's best to leave the heat on with the thermostat set at 45 to 50 degrees or higher.
- Open all cabinet doors so heat can circulate around pipes.
- Be sure heat vents are open and unobstructed (no bird nests or debris).
- If you have a fireplace, be sure the damper is closed.
- If you have an air conditioner, be sure to wrap it so heat does not escape to the outdoors.
- If you use a swamp cooler, be sure to drain and clean it. Wrap the outside with heavy plastic or a cover designed for it.
- Close all window coverings to help hold heat in.