



**Mammoth Community Water District**

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## MCWD Winterizing Tips



Living in snow country can pose difficulties for homeowners and utility providers alike in maintenance and upkeep of existing infrastructure. Being prepared when issues arise is key to resolving problems quickly and minimizing impacts to your property. Here are a few ways to avoid problems and be prepared if something does happen at your property.

### **General:**

- Make sure your contact info with MCWD is up-to-date.
- Make sure you have a contact in Mammoth Lakes with access to your property if you are away.

### **Water:**

- Know where your water meter is and leave it accessible (not landscaped over).
- Have a shut-off-valve in an accessible place in your house or crawlspace, this can reduce water damage in event of a leak- If the only shutoff is buried under snow, it will take longer to find, increasing leak damage.
- Test your shut-off-valve to make sure it works.
- Maintain proper heat in your home, remember electric heaters and pellet stoves do not work during a power outage.
- Check for uninsulated pipes, be aware hot water pipes generally freeze before pipes that carry cold water.
- Seal leaks that allow cold air inside your house, check around electrical wiring, dryer vents, and pipes.
- In a pinch, for instance your heat source goes out, leave water steadily dripping to prevent frozen pipes.

### **Sewer:**

- Know where your sewer cleanout is and make sure there is one outside the building in the yard- If you do not have one, getting one installed is highly recommended.
- Have your cleanout staked or a measurement to its location in case access is needed in winter.
- Hire a contractor to video inspect your sewer lateral and clean if necessary- Roots, pipe offsets, grease and other obstructions can be located and dealt with before an emergency.
- Never put anything other than water, human waste, and toilet paper down the drain- Your pipes are not designed to handle FOG (fats, oils, grease), food scraps, paper towels, baby wipes, or hygiene products.

### **Irrigation and exterior:**

- Plan to have your irrigation system winterized ahead of time.
- Shut-off exterior fixtures if possible and disconnect garden hoses.
- Insulate or use heat tape for exposed pipes that will not be winterized.
- Protect exposed pipes, hose bibs, etc. from snow/ice- the weight of the snow and ice can cause damage, and ice falling from your roof can shear hose bibs and other fixtures.

-For underground irrigation systems:

- Turn off the water to the irrigation system at main valve.
- Set the automatic irrigation controller to the "rain" setting, which shuts off the signal to the valves.
- Turn on each of the valves to release pressure in the pipes.
- Drain all the water out of any irrigation components that might freeze and either suck out any remaining water with a wet/dry shop vacuum or blow it out using an air compressor (professional help is recommended).

The Mammoth Community Water District regularly receives calls from customers for water or sewer related problems on private property. We always try to be accommodating in helping customers solve their issues by making suggestions over the phone. The time it takes to receive help can vary greatly depending on the season, town occupancy, weather, and other circumstances. Following the above steps can help limit damage or costly downtime at your property. If you have not already, please consider taking the time to prepare. Let us know if you have any questions or need more information.



# SAVE OUR WATER

## WINTERIZE YOUR PROPERTY

Prepare the pipes in & around your home — before freezing temps arrive—

Take these steps to prevent freezing damage to your water system & pipes:

- Maintain proper heat in property
- Flush water from irrigation lines
- Shut off exterior water faucets/lines
- Insulate pipes

### \$ FACT

1/8" crack in pipe =  
250 gal of water loss  
every 24hrs

FOR INFO

[WWW.MCWD.DST.CA.US](http://WWW.MCWD.DST.CA.US)

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