Winterize Your Pipes

Before the cold hits

- Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces, garage, unfinished basement, and attic. These exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. Remember the more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be.
- Disconnect garden hoses and insulate outdoor faucets (hose bibs). This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.
- Heat tape or thermostatically controlled heat cables can be used to wrap pipes. Be sure to use products approved only for the use intended (exterior or interior). Closely follow all manufacturers' installation and operation instructions.
- Seal leaks that allow cold air inside near where pipes are located. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents, and pipes. Use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out and the heat in. With severe cold, even a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.

When the temperature drops

- A trickle of hot and cold water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing. Let warm water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall.
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.

Before you go away

- Set the thermostat in your house no lower than 55°F (12°C).
- Ask a friend or neighbor to check your house daily to make sure it's warm enough to prevent freezing.
- Contact the Town of Friday Harbor Finance Office at 360-378-2810 or billing@fridayharbor.org to arrange a date and time for meters to be turned off and on at no charge. Only Town Water Department crew members are authorized to service meters and turn them on or off.
- Shut off hot water heaters at the fuse box and drain the water system.

Irrigation System

Winterizing for a lawn irrigation system primarily consists of shutting off and draining all the water from the irrigation system. Water left in the lawn irrigation system could become frozen and break piping, fittings, valves, sprinklers, pumps, backflow devices etc.

Above Ground Backflow Assemblies

Do not forget to protect your system’s backflow preventer with an insulated cover! Additional rigid insulation and heat tape or thermostatically controlled heat cables will help prevent freezing and costly repairs. Fiberglass insulation prevents access to test cocks, check valves, and relief valve. Use rigid insulation instead.