

Defend Your Property from the Cold

Don't let winter weather catch you unprepared. Prevent the expense and inconvenience of frozen pipes by taking a few simple steps now.

Insulate Exposed Pipes and Faucets

Outdoor faucets and pipes in unheated garages and crawl spaces are the most vulnerable in freezing weather. Hardware stores have good insulation materials available that will protect pipes from freezing.

Locate Your Main Shut-Off Valve

Don't wait for an emergency. Locate your main shut-off valve and test it! If a pipe breaks, you can minimize damage from flooding by turning off your main shut-off valve. Main shut-off valves are typically located in the basement, garage, or outdoors by the foundation, often near the front faucet. Test the valve by turning the handle to be sure it's working properly and identify it with a tag. If a main shut-off valve does not exist, you might consider having one installed by a plumber. If you have an emergency and need the water shut off at the meter, give us a call and we can shut off the water meter for you. To reach us during normal business hours please call (425) 398-4403 and for after hours emergency assistance please call (425) 398-4400.

Disconnect and Drain Outdoor Hoses

Detaching the hose could keep your hose bibs and pipes from freezing. Also, insulators that go over your hose bib will prevent freezing during long cold spells. They can be purchased at any hardware store.

Winterize Your Vacant House

If you plan on leaving your house for several days, take some extra steps to protect pipes from freezing. Turn off the main shut-off valve and contact your gas or electric utilities to see if you should turn off the electricity or gas to the water heater. If the house is going to be vacant for an extended length of time, the water heater should also be drained. It is also a good idea to flush toilets once (to drain the tank but not the bowl), open indoor and outdoor faucets to drain pipes, and to leave your heat on at a minimum temperature setting.



If Your Pipes Do Freeze or Break

Immediately close the main shut-off valve to stop flooding. Thaw frozen pipes and faucets by wrapping them with rags and pouring hot water over the rags until the water is flowing again. After thawing, remove the wet rags and wrap the pipes with dry insulation to prevent refreezing. Never use an open flame or electric device to thaw a frozen pipe - this could cause a fire or electric shock. Any pipe broken during the freeze may start leaking after thawing. 💧

*All of Us at Northshore Utility District Would Like to Wish
You and Your Family a Safe, Healthy and Happy
Holiday Season!*



Important Contact Numbers & Information

Northshore Utility District - Water & Sewer Services

Finance, Operations & Emergency After Hours	425-398-4400
City of Kenmore	425-398-8900
Flooding/Storm Drainage After Hours.....	206-296-8100
Puget Sound Energy - Electricity, Gas & Street Lighting	
Outage and Repair.....	888-225-5773
King County Animal Control	206-296-7387
Garbage Services	206-477-4466



Emergency Supplies:

- Landline telephone (cordless phones will not work if the power goes out)
- Alternative heating and power sources (*DO NOT* use grills, hibachis or generators inside your home or garage, out of concern for carbon monoxide poisoning)
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water
- Emergency lighting such as flashlights and candles ♦

Toilet Rebate Update

The Saving Water Partnership will end its \$30 rebate for regular WaterSense toilets for homeowners on March 31, 2014. The good news...\$75 rebates for Premium WaterSense toilets for homeowners will still be available. Premium WaterSense toilets use 1.06 gallons of water per flush (gpf), nearly 20% more efficient than regular WaterSense models that use 1.28 gpf. Replacing an old water-guzzling toilet with a Premium WaterSense model saves water and could save up to \$200 per year on your water bill.

The \$30 WaterSense rebate is ending because the program has met its goal: the majority of toilets sold in local retailers are now significantly more efficient than standard 1.6 gpf toilets. In 2004, when the U.S. EPA WaterSense program began, only a few toilets met the program's rigorous performance and customer satisfaction criteria. Today, over 1,700 toilet models carry the WaterSense label. The WaterSense voluntary product labeling program helps customers identify efficient products and encourages manufacturing innovation. Rebates from water utilities further encourage customers to choose these efficient products and retailers to stock them. Keeping the \$75 rebate on Premium Water Sense Toilets helps homeowners, retailers, and manufacturers move to these super-efficient models. For more information visit www.savingwater.org or call (206) 684-SAVE (7283). ♦

Keep Our Sewer System "Fat-Free"

Fats, oils and grease (FOG) from cooking, especially around the holidays, can build up in your plumbing and eventually clog your drains. Those same fats, oils and grease can also enter the sewer system and build up over time. That is where the big disaster can start to take place. If the sewer lines become clogged with all that FOG, the waste will end up where you don't want it - right back up into your property.

What should you do with fats, oils and grease? After the FOG has cooled, scrape it into an empty container such as an old can, freeze it and then throw away the hardened FOG into the trash. If you have a large amount of used cooking oil, there are recycling centers that will take it for free and use it for biodiesel. For more information on recycling used cooking oils please visit <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Education/ThingsYouCanDo/FOG.aspx> ♦

Northshore
Utility District
Board of
Commissioners:

Don Ellis
President

Margaret Wiggins
Board Secretary

Bruce Gardiner
Commissioner

Trudy Rolla
Commissioner

Robert Peterson
Commissioner

Board of
Commissioner
Meetings
are held at the
District Office
on the
first and third
Monday of each
month at 5:30 p.m.
(except holidays)



District Office

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