

## **PROTECTING YOUR PLUMBING DURING COLD WEATHER**

Falling temperatures bring not only the potential for ice and snow outside but also for damage to your home's plumbing inside. When pipes and meters freeze it can be an inconvenient and costly event. However, residents can take preventive measures to protect their homes and wallets.

One of the most frequent winter problems the Division of Water and Sewer responds to is frozen water meters. Once frozen, the meter must be replaced with the cost being born by the water customer. If your meter is located in a crawl space, basement, garage or other unheated area, it is recommended that you wrap the exposed piping and meter in insulation material available at your local hardware store.

Sealing cracks in walls and around windows and making sure doors and windows to the outside are closed can further protect your plumbing. When the temperature dips to below freezing; allowing a stream of water, about the size of a pencil lead, to flow from a small faucet will also help minimize the potential for frozen pipes. During extreme temperature dips you may also want to provide heat to vulnerable areas making sure you do so in a safe manner.

It is also recommended that you take the time to locate your inside water shut off valve and make sure that it is operational. Operation and maintenance of this valve is the responsibility of the property owner and/or resident. Being able to find and operate it could prove valuable in the event that you experience a freeze event or other water emergency as being able to shut water off quickly can reduce damage that could occur while you are awaiting an emergency response. Additionally, if you can't operate this valve and have to call for emergency assistance to shut water off at the curb, you will be charged a service fee.

If there is a water related problem, Fairborn residents should call the Division of Water and Sewer weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 754-3097. For water emergencies after hours, holidays and weekends they can call the city's emergency dispatch center at 754-3000. During such emergencies, please do not rely on voice or e-mail messages as these are generally only reviewed during normal business hours.