

# IN THE PIPELINE

## SNOW BIRD WINTER ADVISORY



Plan on spending a week or more of the cold weather months in a warm weather climate? If you're following the sun this winter, make sure your water pipes won't give you an unwelcome surprise when you return. Pipes burst by freezing can cause tremendous damage. Protect your home while you're away. Here are some recommended safeguards to follow before taking off:

### Water Shut Down

If you expect to be away a week or more, shut off the water supply at your water meter. See photos below. Then open all your taps, flush all toilets, and empty other water fixtures to drain your plumbing system. (Remember to close your taps when the water is turned back on.)

### Insulate Exposed Piping

Insulate any exposed water or drain pipes in unheated areas such as a crawlspace, attic, or outside wall. Ideally, wrap them with electrical heating tape and then insulate them.

### Outside Faucets

Exterior faucets need to have their water supply shut off from inside the house. Then drain any water left in the pipe by opening the outside faucet. Disconnect garden hoses and drain them if you plan to keep them outdoors. Consider buying an insulated cover for the faucet.

### Backup Reserve

To double your protection against pipe breaks or unauthorized use while you're away, **once you've closed down your main water valve, the Township will turn service off at the curb for \$50 and restore it upon your return.** Go to [www.CranberryTownship.org/TempShutOff](http://www.CranberryTownship.org/TempShutOff) for the request form.

### Lawn Sprinklers

Winterize your sprinkler system by turning off the water supply and blowing compressed air through the sprinkler lines to purge them of water. Drain any ornamental water fountains and unplug their pumps.

### Inside Meter

If your water meter is in a cabinet or some other enclosed space, allow heated air to circulate by opening its door or access panel.

### Furnace

Test your furnace, then turn the thermostat down. Set it at 55 degrees or higher before you leave. Turn your home water heater to the 'pilot' setting.

### Reality Check

Have a neighbor check your home every week or so while you are away to make sure everything is okay.

Shutoff valves in newer homes use levers, like the yellow one in the photo to the right.



Older meters may have turning handles. Most have valves on either side of the meter. Turn them both off before leaving.



Questions or Comments? Contact us at [CustomerService@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:CustomerService@cranberrytownship.org) or call 724-776-4806.



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Starting November 1, your monthly Sewer/Water/Trash bill will include a \$1. deduction.