



Silver Star Water Utility Update

WEB: www.rdno.ca

PHONE: 250-550-3700

Returning to a property after an extended absence?

Water in the plumbing will be stagnant after having sat in the pipes. Flushing is recommended to bring fresh water to the property.

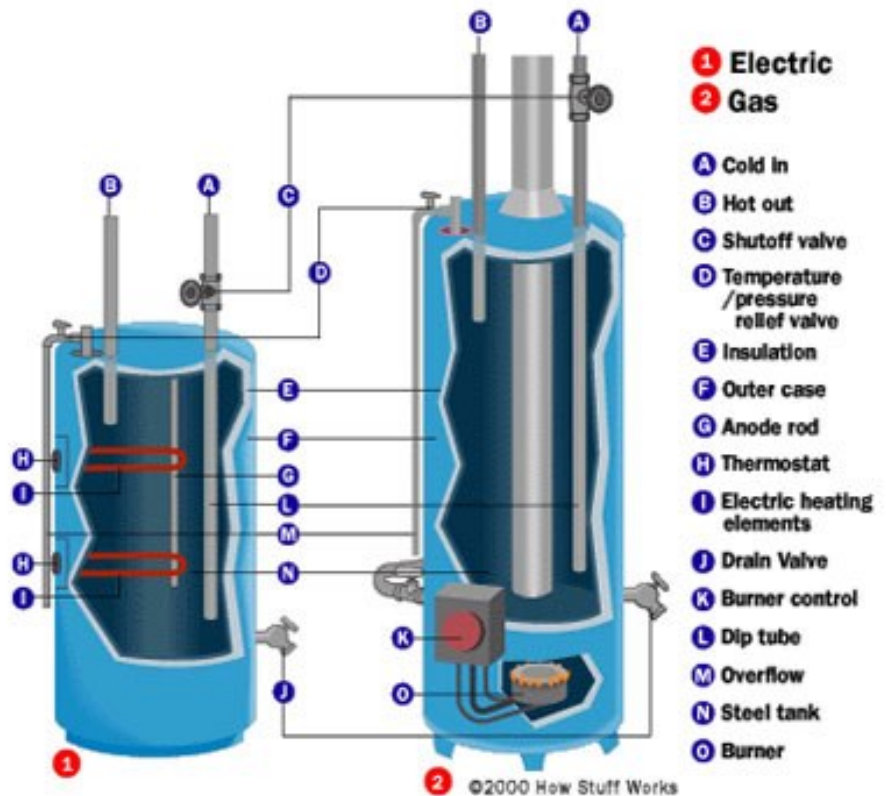
To flush:

- Slowly open the Master Water Shut Off Valve (if it was turned off).
- Open a cold water tap.
- Bleed off air trapped in the pipes by leaving the tap on until water flow returns to normal.
- Flushing toilets while the tap is on also helps.
- The amount of time needed to flush varies so monitor the water temperature. You are looking for the cold fresh water from the watermain.

Hot Water Tanks

If you are turning off your water supply, this is also a good opportunity for other plumbing maintenance such as draining your hot water tank, as sediment can accumulate in it. To ensure maximum performance and a long life, here are some draining tips:

- If you have a gas hot water heater, turn the gas control valve to the 'OFF' position. If you have an electric heater, turn off the power.
- Close the cold water inlet valve to the water heater.
- Attach a hose (if needed) to the hot water drain valve and place the free end over your floor drain.
- Turn on a nearby hot water tap.
- Open the water heater's drain valve. Draining is complete when water stops running.
- If the heater is going to be shut down and drained for an extended period, the drain valve should be left open.
- To re-fill tank, close the drain valve.
- Open the cold water inlet valve.
- Allow tank to fill and air to blow out of the kitchen tap until it produces water.
- Shut off kitchen tap.
- Restart gas or turn on power.



** If the tank is older, it may be worth consulting a plumber before draining.



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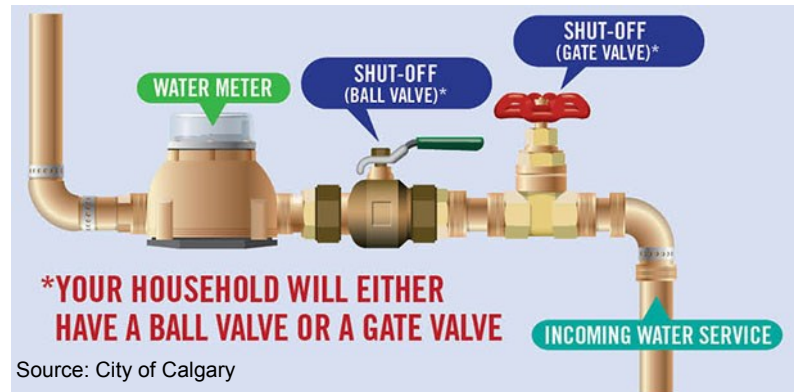
Protecting Your Property from Water Leaks

Stop leaks before they become a problem by shutting off your Master Water Shut Off Valve if you'll be away from your property for an extended period. If you have concerns about freezing pipes, check with a plumbing professional. You may need to drain the pipes.

Do you know where the Master Water Shut Off Valve is in your home? Does anyone else in the family know where it is? If there's an emergency, you'll need to know in a hurry. These are the most likely locations:

- Water supply pipe entry to building
- Upstream of the water meter
- Near your clothes washer hook-up
- Near your water heater

Once you've found the valve, mark it with a tag, bright ribbon, or colourful paint (like the one in this photo).



Nip that Drip — Fix Leaks

For many, the first sign of a leak may be a sudden spike in their water bill. Hidden leaks in underground irrigation or from hot water tanks can add up to a lot of wasted water.

Check for leaks in the toilet: add a few drops of food coloring in the tank, wait a few minutes, then check the bowl—if there's colour, you've got a leak. Turn off all fixtures (including RO systems and ice makers) and check your meter. If the small red dial or triangle on your water meter is moving you have a leak. Check your sprinkler system for winter damage and update the settings for spring.

Twist faucet valves, tighten pipe connections, and secure your hose to the spigot.

Replace old plumbing fixtures and irrigation timers with high efficiency models that are independently certified to use less water and perform well.

Did you Know?

Waste per quarter (3 months) at 60 psi water pressure					
Diameter of stream		Gallons	Cubic Feet	Cubic Meters	Litres
	1/4"	1,181,500	158,000	4,475	4,475,000
	3/16"	666,000	89,031	2,521	2,521,000
	1/8"	296,000	639,400	1,115	1,115,000
	1/16"	74,000	9,850	280	280,000

A continuous leak from a hole this size would, over a three month period, waste water in the amounts shown above.