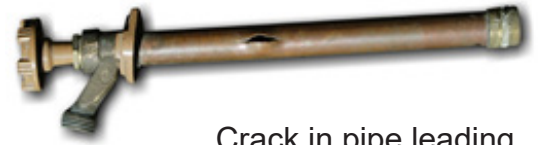


Winterize Pipes to Avoid Leaks

With the colder temperatures upon us, outside water taps are at risk of freezing, which can lead to cracks and leaks if they are not winterized.

Follow these tips to help avoid leaks!



Crack in pipe leading to outside water tap

Look for Frost-Free or Non-Freeze Hose Bibbs

Frost-free and non-freeze hose bibbs are designed to help prevent water freezing in the hose bibb.

To Winterize a Hose Bibb with an Inside Shut-off:

1. Remove everything from the hose bibb including quick connect fittings and Y-splitters.
2. Close the inside shut-off (usually a handle).
3. Open the outside tap to drain.
4. When the tap stops dripping, close the outside tap. Don't leave the outside tap open, as this will allow freezing air into the pipes in the home.

To Winterize a Hose Bibb without an Inside Shut-off

installing a frost-free and/or inside shut-off is highly recommended

1. Turn-off outside the tap, remove anything connected to it.
2. Insulate outside with hose bibb cover.
3. Inspect the inside of the pipe and the hose bibb on the outside regularly to check for drips or ice.



Watch for Signs of a Leak

Some common signs of a leak include:

- Ice built up on a hose bibb may indicate that flooding will occur when the ice thaws. Check your inside walls for water. If possible, turn off the water to this hose bibb so it can be inspected in spring.
- The hose bibb dripping when it is turned off. It is normal for water to drip from the tap just after it is shut off but this should stop after a few seconds.
- The water meter is still turning when every water fixture in the home is **off**. The red leak detector circle or triangle on the meter face should not move when all water fixtures are off. Digital meters have a flashing indicator.

Note: Taps should be turned off gently. Forcing the tap closed will cause the washers and leads to shred, leading to future issues.

Note: It is the homeowners responsibility to check for leaks – water meters are a great tool for monitoring water use.

Waste per Quarter at 60 PSI Water Pressure

Diameter of Stream	Gallons	Cubic Feet	Cubic Metres
1/4"	1,181,500	157,943	4,472
3/16"	666,000	89,031	2,521
1/8"	296,000	39,569	1,120
1/16"	74,000	9,892	280

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