



*Cobb County...Expect the Best!*

## **At Home Plumbing System Best Practices**

### **Freezing Weather**

- Cover outdoor water valves and spigots when the temperatures dip below 32°. A fitted plastic cover can be found at most hardware and home improvement stores, but tape and cardboard wrapped around the spigot can be just as effective.
- Wrap exposed water pipes in the basement or crawl space. This insulates them against freezing and helps to prevent water waste by keeping the water in the pipes warmer.
- Invest in a water heater blanket. This can save water and help cut water and heating bills. These are available at most hardware and home improvement stores.
- Shut down your irrigation system for the season. When temperatures begin to dip, the PVC piping in most irrigation systems is vulnerable to freezing and rupture. Every year turn off the system at the main control and open each valve until the entire system drains of water. After the system is drained close each valve and leave the system shut off until early spring.
- When the temperature is below 32° open cabinet doors to expose pipes to heat and drip the faucet overnight in order to prevent freezing.
- If you notice your pipes are frozen, it is best to shut off water at your main shut-off valve and allow the pipes to thaw. Once thawed, have a licensed plumber come out to assess the damage and make repairs. By turning off your water at the main valve you avoid losing water through the ruptured pipe preventing the loss of water, money, and any property that might be damaged.
- During the winter it is best to shut off your main water valve anytime you are leaving the home overnight. Additionally, turn on a faucet to allow all water in the pipes to drain out. This simple preventive measure can lessen the chance of a major leak that results in high bills, wasted water, and damage to your property.

## **Leaving Your Home for a Vacation or Extended Period of Time.**

- Anything can happen to your plumbing system when no one is there. Your home plumbing system consists of all the pipe and fixtures that are on your property after the water meter connection. Customers are responsible for all water that passes through their system and any associated costs. It is best to ensure that you have taken proper precautions to avoid water loss, when vacating your property, either for a short trip or an extended absence.
- Toilets can get stuck at the most inopportune times. When leaving for a trip, check every toilet in the home. Ensure that they have all completed their flushing cycle and do a visual inspection of the tank to ensure the flapper is properly seated and not hung up or misaligned.
- Check all faucets, tubs and showerheads, make sure there are no leaks and they have been tightly turned off.
- Check your outdoor faucets and make sure they are not running. If a hose or drip irrigation system is attached, ensure they have not been inadvertently left running.
- To avoid theft of water, a lock for your outdoor spigots can be purchased and affixed when leaving for short trips. They can be found at most hardware and home improvement stores.
- Ask a neighbor to stop by and inspect the home once or twice during your absence to ensure an unexpected accident has not occurred.
- The best way to ensure the safety of your property from water loss and the associated costs and damage while you are away is to turn off the water at your main shut-off valve and drain the system by running a faucet. This avoids the potential for theft, an unexpected line break, or a toilet leak.
- If you are moving out of a property, but maintaining ownership, Cobb County Water System would recommend closing the account and terminating service until you will again be occupying the property. This helps you avoid any unforeseen leaks, theft of water, damage, or high water bills associated with unexpected use.
- If you wish to continue service to a vacated property, Cobb County Water System recommends you manually turn off the water at the main shut-off valve and follow the above best practices every time you are leaving the home.