

WINTERIZING THE WATER SUPPLY LINE AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM

QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION FOR THE CUSTOMER

- Ask if the customer is prepared for freezing winter.
- Exposed water filled line are most susceptible to freezing.
- Insulating pipes with the right material is important.
- Foam pipe covers are fine for protecting PVC pipe from the sun's heat (which makes PVC pipe brittle) but does not protect against freezing.
- Using electric heat tape is the best preventive measure to protect water lines supplying water to the home from freezing.
- Heat tape uses little energy and only comes on when the temperature drops below 32 degrees.
- Heat tape can also be used on irrigation control valves.
- During freezing temperatures, water supply to the irrigation supply can be shut off (indicate irrigation valve).
- Leave timer on to allow control valves to open and close (allows water to drain out through lowest sprinklers).
- An insulated cover over control valves can also help prevent frozen pipes. An open back in the cover allows warmth from the house to radiate into the box.
- Advise of winter watering schedule, after 9:00am and before 4:00pm. If watering do so during the warmest part of the day to prevent water from freezing on driveways and sidewalks.
- Advise the customers of the locations of shut off's, which can be used in case of emergency.
- Hand out brochure (winterizing).