

Away From Home

- During an extended period away from home, consider shutting off the water at the main valve.
- Drain all inside and outside water faucets and pipes.
- Shut off the water heater or leave it on a low setting.

How To Reach Us

Office Locations and Hours

4145 Highmarket Street • Georgetown, SC 29440
456 Clearwater Drive • Pawleys Island, SC 29585
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday



Phone Numbers and Web Address
Customer Service and After Office Hours:
546-8408
Administration: 237-9727
E-Mail: customer_services@gcwsd.com
Website: www.gcwsd.com

Cold Weather Plumbing Tips



The Georgetown County Water and Sewer District (GCWSD) would like to share the following tips about how to protect household pipes and plumbing during cold weather. Although our area generally experiences mild winters, this guide will provide helpful tips to be sure you and your plumbing are prepared for colder temperatures.

Before Cold Weather

- **Pipes** – Wrap exposed pipes outside and in unheated areas of your home using insulating material, newspaper or blankets.
- **Faucets** – Check outside faucets and water hoses. Remove and drain water hoses. Wrap outside faucets with insulating material.
- **Drafts** – Eliminate drafts by closing windows and doors near water lines. Caulk around pipes that enter your home and seal all cracks. Cover foundation vents and air passages around your home.
- **Main Valve** – Make sure every member of your household knows where the main shut-off valve is located. The shut-off valve should be used in the event of a pipe burst or significant leak. Before operating the valve, apply a lubricant, such as WD-40, to prevent valve breakage.

During Cold Weather

- **Water Meter** – Keep lids closed on the water meter to prevent the meter from freezing. If you notice a water meter lid that is not properly secured, call the GCWSD at 546-8408.
- **Running Water** – During low usage and particularly nights that dip below 32 degrees, keep a steady stream of water running, about the size of a pencil lead.

In Case Of

- **Frozen Pipe** – To prevent pipe bursts, open on the cold water faucet nearest to the frozen pipe. Although no water will come out, this allows air in to relieve the pressure of expanding ice.
- **No Running Water** – If you have no water running, call the GCWSD at 546-8408. If the water is frozen at the water meter, the GCWSD will fix the problem. Otherwise the water is frozen inside your pipes, and you may need to contact a plumber.
- **Running Water** – If you have some running water, the safest and least expensive suggestion is to wait until the frozen pipes thaw naturally. You may use a hairdryer or heat lamp to speed thaw time, but never use an open flame. Be careful when using electrical devices because if the pipe is cracked, you risk the danger of electrocution.

