

It's Winter, Time to Reset Your Irrigation Controller & Cut Back on Water Use

Does your lawn need watering over the winter? Yes, some, but not nearly as much as in the summer months. Evaporation rates are much lower in winter and grass is dormant, so you can set your irrigation system to water only twice a month OR LESS. If you know rain is coming, shut your system off completely or make sure your rain sensor prevents the system from operating. Save cash now and save on sewer service cost by using less water during the winter months.

Water Use in November, January and February is Used to Compute Sewer Bills - Remember to be aware of your household water consumption during the months of November thru February. WCID 17 averages household water usage during this time to calculate the residential wastewater bill amount for the following year. These months are used because these are the months which historically have the lowest usage because residents are not watering outside or watering very little. Wastewater rates are evaluated and adjusted annually each October.

No One Likes a Broken Water Pipe!!!

Every winter, many homeowners face the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes. Take a walk through your home and yard so you can cross that off your list of winter worries by taking a few simple precautions:

- Drain and insulate irrigation backflow valves (RPZ);
- Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses;
- Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas;
- Seal off access doors, vents and cracks;
- In severe cold weather, open the cabinet doors that have plumbing pipes inside to allow heat to help protect them;
- Consider allowing a faucet to drip a small continuous stream or shut your water off at the master shutoff; and
- Make sure you can locate your master water shutoff.

What if it's too late? What if you wake up one morning and find the pipes have frozen anyway? Have the plumber's phone number handy. If you think you know where the freeze up occurred, and want to try thawing it yourself, the easiest tool is probably the hair dryer with a high heat setting. Wave the warm air back and forth over the pipe, not on one spot. Be careful, because the pipe may already be broken. It's not leaking because the water is frozen. When you thaw it out, the water could come gushing out. Be ready to turn off the water if necessary, or better yet, shut the valve off before thawing the pipe.
