

Mountain Mutual Water Company

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www.mountainmutual.com

Newsletter, Fourth Quarter 2026

As the last newsletter of the year, it is also the letter just before the winter season arrives. As you recall, last year's winter was warmer than usual....and much dryer. So far, we have been fortunate to have some moisture. Let us hope for a snowy winter. Snow cover acts like a blanket and keeps the cold from penetrating the ground and affecting both your water system and the mains.

Here are some tips and reminders on getting ready for this winter:

Winterize: For those that leave their homes for the winter without heat, most are familiar with the protections necessary to keep pipes from freezing. This is a reminder to take those important steps. At the very least, turn off the power to the water pump and turn off the breaker at the electrical panel. You can also have MMWC turn off your water at the meter at no cost (the turn-on fee is \$25.00). This helps ensure that should a break occur due to freezing, expensive damage and water costs can be avoided.

Protect: Freezing of any part of the water system can be aggravating at least or disastrous at worst, so protecting it is important. Keeping pipes warm inside the house can always be done by having adequate heat inside the house. If that is not desirable, then winterizing as mentioned above is recommended. For the water system outside, things get a bit more difficult.

The meter pit can be one such item which may present a problem. Since the meter pit belongs to the property owner, it is up to the owner to provide protection to the pipes that connect to the meter. Meter pits in our subdivision have such widely varying conditions which make some more vulnerable to freezing than others. Sun exposure, terrain and soil composition all contribute to wide variability. Depending on the conditions, having additional insulation above the meter can help, however some may need an additional heat source. Several years ago, MMWC developed a "heat stick" for use in meter pits needing additional heat. Please contact the office if you would like further advice on how to prevent the freezing of the meter pit components.

Another common freeze problem is the float valve within the cistern. A cistern heater is recommended for all homes. Depending on your cistern's configuration, a tank heater or other choices can be used to prevent freezing. Again, if you are unsure what heating method to use, please contact the office for suggestions.

One other issue a few customers experienced last winter was the lack of usage showing on their monthly invoice. If your residence is occupied and you are not showing any usage, there is probably a problem developing and you will need to contact the office immediately.

Simple planning for cold weather and taking preventative measures go a long way to ensuring that water will be available throughout the winter season. If you need advice for implementing measures, our staff is able to provide advice based on their experience over the years. In any event, please do not wait until there is a problem to implement preventative measures.



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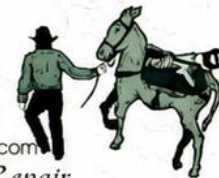
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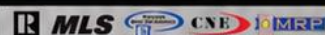
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