

Tips on winterizing your home

Cold weather is quickly approaching and the need to winterize your home has never been more important. Attached are a few steps to help you winterize. If you feel you cannot perform these tasks, please contact a plumber or maintenance professional to complete as needed.



**Utilities Inc.
of Georgia**

For residents that are staying in Big Canoe for the winter months, please do the following:

Insulate your pipes

Not all pipes are insulated or equipped to handle frigid temperatures, and bursting pipes can be a major concern during winter months. Add foam insulation around your pipes — especially those on your exterior walls — to ensure the water flowing through them does not freeze and allow pressure to build up.



Drain and shut off water sources

It's also a good idea to check all of your exterior water sources. We recommend winterizing outdoor irrigation systems, drain and shut off outdoor water sources, and disconnect and store garden hoses to prevent freezing and damage. Proper draining and shutting off of outdoor water sources will reduce the risk of pipes bursting when temperatures drop to freezing levels. In addition, if you drain and store your hoses away, this will ensure they last as long as they should and remain functional.



Please be aware, during these cold temperatures if UIG identifies a leak on your service line that has an impact to the distribution system, we may have to turn your water off to protect the rest of the system. We will make attempts to contact you prior to turning off the service and encourage homeowners to contact a plumber immediately when you find a leak in your service line.

For residents that are leaving Big Canoe for the winter months, please make sure to do the following:

Adjust the thermostat

Set your thermostat to a level adequate to keep the inside temperature above freezing, 56 - 58 degrees is recommended. If a hot water boiler, heat pump, or radiant floor heat system is used, then we recommend VERY strongly that it be handled by a HVAC professional familiar with these systems.



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Open all faucets and drain all waterlines

Be sure to turn off the gas supply or power supply to your hot water heaters before you drain them. When turning off the power be sure to drain booster pump systems as required by manufacturer suggestions. Follow all manufacturer procedures to winterize other appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines, whole house filter systems, refrigerators, irrigation systems, etc. Although draining all of these items through gravity might be adequate, some lines might need to be blown out with compressed air.

Contact a plumber or maintenance professional for this. Eliminate or dilute the water in drain traps by pouring an "RV" type antifreeze solution into them. "RV" type is nontoxic propylene glycol antifreeze sold for recreational vehicles. If a house will be vacant for a long time, close all sink and tub drains. You may prevent water in a toilet's trap from evaporating (and thereby permitting sewer gases to enter the home) by raising the toilet lid and seat and covering the bowl with saran wrap.



Turn off the water at the meter

This will require a valve installed between the meter and the customer's house. The valve on the Water Department side of the meter is not designed to be turned off as you come and go, and improper use of this valve could cause it to fail. Please contact a plumber to have a valve installed if one does not presently exist.

