

Are you ready for winter?

Tips from Brodhead Creek Regional Authority

Things to remember for winter:

- Drain and disconnect hoses and hose bibs outside or in a garage. If not they could freeze and break your pipes.
- Insulate pipes in unheated areas, it might be necessary to leave a sink trickling to prevent the line from freezing. (this may seem like it's wasting water but it will be less if a pipe bursts)
- Check your plumbing for leaks after the first freeze and thaw.
- Remember to remove your window air conditioner if you have one, if not cover it on the inside and outside.



<http://www.svmcleaningspecialists.com/outside-faucet-hose-bib-pipe-burst/>



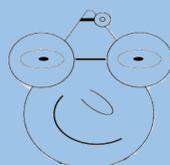
<http://www.minnehahacreek.org/education/keep-our-water-clean-home/salt-and-snow-removal>

Watershed Management: Do Your Part

- **Over salting** is a big concern not only does it impact concrete and pavement it can effect wildlife and humans. Salt washes into our watershed through runoff and can have adverse impacts on aquatic life. The salt can also get into a water supply causing higher levels of sodium in a water system.
- Instead of blowing leaves off property, chop them up using a mulching blade on a mower. This will help add nutrients and organic matter into the soil. It can also save time! If you don't want to chop up the leaves you can compost them on your property.
- Autumn is one of the best times to plant trees and shrubs. These should be native plants that are best suited for your property.

Tips from Dr. Waters:

- Don't overspread winter fertilizers on the sidewalk or driveway, the nutrients will wash into a storm drain that dumps into the creek. You can also spread organic slow release fertilizers.
- Pick up trash from streets and sidewalks
- Water usage tips:
 - Shorten Showers
 - Turn water off when brushing teeth
 - Run washer and dishwasher on full loads



For more information visit www.drwaters.org

