

Meter Box Maintenance

Your water meter is located in a square water meter box made either of plastic or concrete and is usually located at one of your front property corners. Knowing the location of your water meter is very important and enables the District to come out and quickly access the water meter and shut-off valve in case there is a leak or water emergency.



Shrubs, planters and other landscaping details can obscure access to the water meter. You can help maintain access to the water meter box by:

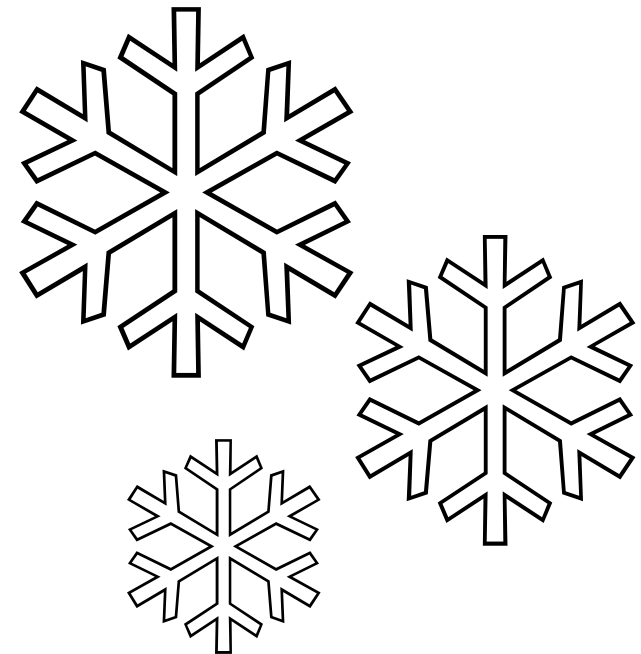
- Keeping items off the meter box
- Trimming the grass around the meter box
- Keeping shrubbery and other landscaping from obstructing a clear and easy access to the meter box
- Keeping shoveled and plowed snow off of the meter box during snow events



Birch Bay Water and Sewer District
7096 Point Whitehorn Drive
Birch Bay, WA 98230
360-371-7100
www.bbwsd.com

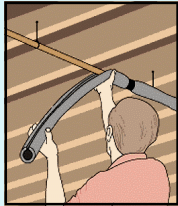
Preparing Your Pipes for Cold Weather

 Birch Bay Water and Sewer District



COLD SNAP CHECKLIST

1. Eliminate drafts. Close and insulate vents. Caulk and seal any openings near your water pipes.
2. Insulate pipes.
3. Protect outside pipes and faucets by properly draining them.
4. Cover or insulate exterior faucets.
5. Winterize sprinkler systems, pools and spas according to manufacturer's recommendations.



Thawed Out: The Problem with Frozen Pipes

Water expands as it freezes. This expansion puts tremendous pressure on whatever is containing it, including metal or plastic pipes. No matter the "strength" of the pipe, expanding water can cause pipes to break.

Pipes that freeze most frequently are those that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines and water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages or kitchen cabinets. Also, pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation are also subject to freezing.

Frozen water pipes can stop water service and be expensive to repair or replace and homeowners are responsible for ensuring their houses are protected from the occasional cold snap.

If Your Pipes Freeze.....

- Never try to thaw a frozen pipe with a torch or open flame
- Place a warm towel or rag around the pipe or try a hair dryer with a low setting to thaw out the frozen pipe



If Your Pipes Break.....

- Please call the District at (360) 371-7100 to have your water shut-off at the meter.



COLD SNAP WATER USE TRENDS

When the District experiences below freezing temperature followed by warmer temperatures water usage doubles as a result of broken frozen pipes thawing out.

The graph to the left reflects what happened to District water usage after a long cold snap in 2008. Water usage doubled and almost met our peak day record of 1.77 million gallons for that year!

