Reminder from Covington Water District

With temperatures dropping Covington Water District would like to remind our customers of important steps to protect pipes from freezing.

The first sign of ice forming in pipes is reduced flow at faucets. So, if the flow slows to a trickle during a cold snap, or if you suspect your pipes are vulnerable, take action. Here's how to make sure pipes don't freeze:

- Turn up the heat.
- Insulate pipes. Pipe insulation in your home's crawl spaces and attic helps even if you live in a climate where freezing is uncommon. Exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. Remember, the more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be.
- Seal leaks. Locate and thoroughly seal leaks that allow cold air inside. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes, and use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out.
- Set up fans to blow heat into cold rooms.
- Open vanity or cabinet doors so warm air can reach the pipes under sinks.
- If you have exposed pipes inside closets or pantries, leave doors open.
- Disconnect garden hoses from outdoor faucets. Even frost-proof outdoor faucets can burst if a hose is connected.
- Keep the garage door closed.
- If you have reduced water flow, heat the most vulnerable pipes (usually in basements and crawl spaces or near exterior walls) with a hairdryer. Leave the faucet on while you apply heat. As you melt ice, the flow will increase.

Let the Water Run to Prevent Pipes from Freezing *Make freezing less likely!*

A tiny trickle from faucets protects pipes in two ways. First, it prevents pressure from building up inside pipes. Second, it creates a constant flow of water through pipes and that makes freezing much less likely.

Heat the Water Pipe

Electric heat cable is good protection during cold spells. A thermostat switches on the heat only when the temperature drops, so heat cable won't waste electricity when it isn't needed. But if you need to protect lots of pipes for long periods, heat cable is an inexpensive solution.