



The Power Source

Trenton Municipal Utilities
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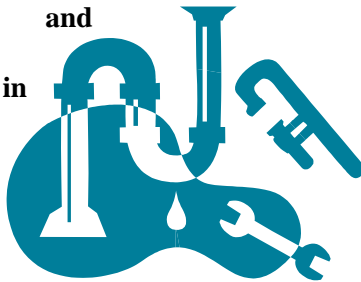
www.trentonmo.com

Take Precautions from Frozen Pipes

With the recent drop in temperatures and forecast for more of the same, Trenton Municipal Utilities wants to provide some tips on ways to try and keep water pipes from freezing.

The main goal is to keep all areas where piping might freeze warm enough so that freezing does not occur. Some of the most vulnerable areas are crawlspaces and basements that have very little or no heat. Some ways to protect these areas include:

- Seal off all outside access.
- Close doors and windows.
- Seal cracks in doors, windows, foundations. Cracks can be sealed with spray foam insulation, plastic sheeting, foam board, or anything else that can keep the wind out will help.
- Keeping the pipes warm by insulating them. Pipe wrap works well but even a blanket or anything else that wraps around the pipe can help. Pay particular attention to pipes that are located close to walls, doors, and windows, especially those with cracks.
- Add some heat to the space where the pipes are located – the space only needs to be heated to about 40 degrees, so if a space heater is used, be aware not to over heat the area and please remember to follow safety guidelines for the heater (making sure there are no flammable materials close, etc.). Heat tape can also be added to lines that are likely to freeze. Just make sure to follow the safety instructions.
- Open cabinet doors to allow some additional heat under cabinets.



- Open a faucet so that there is a small drip to allow water to keep moving.
- Be very cautious when thawing pipes. A propane torch or open flame is dangerous. Use gentle sources of heat such as a hair dryer.

Protect Your Water Meter

Water meters can be damaged by freezing conditions. If your meter freezes because you neglected to take simple steps to protect it from the cold, TMU will repair or replace the meter but it will be at your expense. Charges can be up to \$195 to cover the cost of the meter.

Here are a few tips to help you protect your meter:

- Check the temperature of your meter by placing a thermometer close to the meter to obtain an accurate reading; remember it's colder near the floor and along foundation walls.
- Repair broken or cracked windows and walls; install storm windows on basement windows. Close windows and doors to the outside tightly. Insulate outside walls, and eliminate drafts from crawl spaces. If your meter is located outdoors or in an unheated garage, take extra care to make sure the meter is insulated; check with your local plumbing service supplier about insulating materials. You may use old blankets as insulation around the meter or hay on top of the meter lid for protection.



It is recommended that you protect your water meters from the cold beginning sometime during November and remove the insulation sometime in late March, depending on the temperature.

Take advantage of Our Automatic Bank Deduct Service

If you are tired of writing checks to pay your utility bill or sometimes forget to send your payment in on time, then Trenton Municipal Utilities' Automatic Bank Deduct Service is just for you. Come into TMU and fill out our Automatic Bank Deduct form. Your utility bill will be automatically deducted from your bank account. You will still receive a utility bill, but will state that it is a bank draft.

TMU also offers the option of paying your bill with a MasterCard or Visa debit or credit card. You have the same option to have this automatically posted each month as well.

For more information on our Automatic Bank Deduct Service, contact us at (660) 359-2281.

Office Closings

Trenton Municipal Utilities and City Hall will be closed on Monday, February 15th in observance of Presidents Day. For immediate emergency utility service, contact our after hours service at (660) 359-3211.

Hard Water

What Is It and Why It Matters

When was the last time you read the instructions for a new appliance (such as a dishwasher, washing machine, steam mop) and the instructions varied depending upon the hardness of the water. Hopefully, with the information below you will be able to understand why those instructions discuss the water hardness and how it may save you some money by knowing the answer (there is a money saving hint at the end of the article).

When water is 'hard' it simply means that there are more minerals in the water than when it is 'soft'. Hardness is caused as water moves through soil and rock and it dissolves small amount of minerals and holds them in solution. The most common compounds that make up the hardness are calcium, magnesium and other metals. The water quality standards established by US, EPA and MO DNR do not include hardness. The minerals dissolved in the water are not harmful to your health (some studies suggest they can even help meet some nutrition goals for those minerals), but they have a larger impact on the properties of the water as it relates to cleaning and other uses. The hardness of the

water is usually measured by determining the concentration in parts per million (PPM). Another way that is sometimes used to measure hardness is grains per gallon (gpg) with one grain per gallon equal to 17.1 ppm.

Depending upon the source and treatment methods, drinking water can have a hardness level that ranges from about 50 ppm to 300 ppm. Trenton Municipal Utilities (TMU) utilizes a treatment system that includes hardness removal. The main way we achieve hardness reduction is through lime softening. This process allows TMU to provide a finished water with a hardness concentration ranging from about 60 ppm to about 90 ppm (or 3.51 to 5.26 grains per gallon). Most industry standards suggest that water with a concentration under 120 ppm is considered a soft water, which is why we usually think of our water as 'soft'

Now for the most important part – what does this mean for the average customer? Soft water allows customers to use less soap and detergents for home laundry and washing. Also, hot water heaters and other plumbing fixtures will usually last longer when used with soft water. For commercial customers the soft water can also help extend the life of other equipment that relies on water and the softer water can also help with industrial production for some processes. Softer water can reduce how much detergent is needed, can make it easier to rinse off soap, and extend the life of fixtures and equipment, which can help save the customers money for those items. Now when you read the instructions for that new appliance you will know why you can use less detergent or soap. For everyone that did not read the instructions, now you will also know that you can probably operate the dishwasher with the soap reservoirs only half full and still get the dishes fully clean. If you are getting soap scum on the dishes when you fill the soap reservoir full, it may be because you are using too much soap.



Happy Groundhog Day – February 2nd

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