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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keeping Out the Cold: Tips to Protect Your Water System This Winter

Old Man Winter is just around the corner. Are you prepared for the cold?

Now's the time to protect your home's water system from freezing. Extremely low temperatures and cold air blowing through drafty windows can damage pipes and water meters, leaving many people without water in the middle of a severe winter. Many homes are at risk, so the Philadelphia Water Department offers our customers these easy tips to protect their home water systems this winter:

- Shut off outside water faucets from the inside valves. To drain these faucets, leave the outside valves open.
- Keep the area around your water meter above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Wrap your water meter and its connecting pipe with insulation.
- Caulk windows near water meters or pipes. Cover these windows with plastic.
- Replace or cover cracked or broken windows.
- Wrap and insulate all water pipes in unheated areas-in sheds, under kitchen floors, and in garages.
- Let water trickle overnight in extremely cold weather to keep your pipes from freezing.
- Have a registered plumber winterize any vacant properties, if you own any.

Homeowners are responsible for maintaining and repairing their home water systems, which includes the water service line. This is the pipe, which run from the city's water main and brings water into a home. If this pipe freezes or breaks, it can be costly to repair. So, don't be left without water, or with a hefty repair bill, this winter. Winterize your home's plumbing now before its too late!

For more information about the Water Department's operations and services, call 215-685-6300.

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