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**It's Time to Winterize Home Plumbing and Avoid Costly Problems**

Seasonal Tips from the Experts at Roto-Rooter

**CINCINNATI, OH—** That first chilly autumn morning is the perfect reminder that when winter arrives it can be sudden, often leaving homeowners unprepared for the [plumbing problems](#) associated with cold weather. People in northernmost states should take preventive action to protect their plumbing systems by late October. Southerners should follow by late November. Failure to prepare early might prove costly when pipes freeze, which is why the plumbing experts at Roto-Rooter recommend taking these plumbing precautions early, when time is on your side, instead of waiting until cold weather arrives.

- Disconnect outside water hoses. If left connected during freezing temperatures, water in hoses will freeze and expand causing connecting faucets and pipes to freeze and break.
- Inspect outside faucets. If dripping or leaking, make the necessary repairs or call a plumber before a freeze.
- Note that when pipes freeze, water pressure builds causing cracks, whether the pipe is made of plastic, copper or steel. Even a tiny crack can unleash 250 gallons of water in a single day.
- If your home is equipped with interior shut-off valves leading to outside faucets, close them and drain water from the pipes.
- Cover outside faucets using an inexpensive faucet insulation kit.
- Insulate pipes in unheated areas. Apply heat tape or thermostat-controlled heat cables around exposed pipes.
- Your water heater works harder during winter months. Drain corrosion-causing sediment from the tank, which reduces energy efficiency.
- Set water heater thermostat to 125° F for optimum performance without risk of scalding.
- Clear any leaves and debris from roof gutters and downspouts to ensure proper drainage throughout the winter season.
- Inspect and clean sump pit. Remove any rocks and debris from pit then dump a bucket of water into the sump pit to test the pump. If it turns on and pumps water out then turns itself off, it is operating properly.
- Make sure your furnace is set no lower than 55 degrees during the winter to prevent pipes from freezing.

Roto-Rooter has additional seasonal plumbing tips available on-line at [www.rotorooter.com](http://www.rotorooter.com). Or you can become a fan on Facebook at [Facebook.com/RotoRooter](https://www.facebook.com/RotoRooter).

**About Roto-Rooter**

Roto-Rooter, a wholly owned subsidiary of Chemed Corporation, was established in 1935 and is the largest provider of plumbing and drain cleaning services in North America. Roto-Rooter operates businesses in more than 116 company-owned territories and more than 500 independent franchise territories, serving 91 percent of the U.S. population and 44 percent of Canada.