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American Joe

Pueblo's Professional Handyman

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Winterization

By Joseph Prescia



According to the Pueblo National Weather Service, the average first freeze will happen on October 9th. The earliest freeze on record was September 14, 1951. As you can see, we are in that time frame now. When should you winterize? The following are suggestions, but you should take appropriate precautions based on weather conditions.

Swamp Coolers

Drain by Sept. 15th

Shut off water from the supply and disconnect line. If yours uses an outside faucet as a supply for water, *remove the adapter from the faucet to prevent the faucet from*

freezing. Look for any low spots that may exist in the water supply line that could hold water that does not allow gravity to drain the water. If water settles here it will freeze and you will be replacing your supply line in the spring. Disconnect power cords inside cooler and remove belt from pulleys to eliminate unnecessary tension on pulleys. A good place to store the faucet adapter and the belt are inside the swamp cooler. Cover unit and close inside house vent(s).

Lawn Sprinklers

Drain by October 15th

Shut off water from the supply valve. Open all

drained valves in the valve box so that water does not get trapped in them. DO NOT keep these valves closed or you may be purchasing new valves in the spring. Moisture can build up if they are left closed. Leave back flow devices open as well.

Garden Hoses

Disconnect from Faucets by October 15th

An outside water faucet shuts off the water several inches inside your home where the air is warm. When you shut off the faucet the water drains out the pipe to the outside of your home where the air is colder. If you leave a garden hose attached to the faucet during cold months the water CANNOT drain and it will freeze the pipe. Most of the time you will not know that you have a busted faucet pipe in your home until you turn on the faucet in the spring and it floods the crawl space or the basement.

Don't forget to stay on schedule!



1. Should you leave the swamp cooler faucet adapter on your outside faucet during the winter?
2. Is it wise to keep your sprinkler valves closed during winter months?
3. Is it OK to leave garden hoses attached to an outside faucet during the winter?

To get the answers to these simply read the article to your right, "Winterization."



| Pueblo Freeze Data (National Weather Service) | |
|---|---------------|
| Mean Date of First Freeze..... | October 9 |
| Earliest First Freeze..... | Sept 14, 1951 |
| Mean Date of Last Freeze..... | May 2 |
| Latest Freeze of the Season.... | June 2, 1919 |

Memorization

By Joseph Prescia



Do you have trouble remembering names? A famous author, Ron White, suggests using a picture in your mind to associate with the name.

When I was 15 years old and in high school, I had trouble memorizing the periodic table of chemical elements. We're talking 117 elements, their atomic number, and their symbol for well over 300 items to remember.

I lived in Louisiana at the time, so I sat out on my parents' front porch. We lived in the country where there were plenty of things to see like houses, trees, bushes, power lines, clouds, etc. I picked items on the landscape one at a time and associated each of them with a chemical element. I went over this again and again in my mind until I was convinced I could take that mental scene of collective pictures with me into the classroom.

The next day I took that Chemistry test and aced it!

Mental pictures enhance our ability to remember. Try it sometime. You may amaze yourself at what you can remember.

