



COLD WEATHER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

With the cold weather on the way, it is a good time to remind our customers to start thinking about weather-proofing their homes to protect against frozen water lines and meters. The Utility has helpful information and tips on the utility web page at <http://www.cityoflawrence.org/utilities/water-sewer>.

Your plumbing contractor is also a great resource to inspect and ensure that adequate protection against damages due to freezing is provided. Please remember that the cost to replace frozen and broken meters are charged to the customer's monthly bill.

A little bit of effort in preventing freezing temperatures from causing broken meters is worth it in the long run as meters are not cheap to replace, along with the inconvenience of being without water for

a period of time. If your meter is located outside in a meter pit in the yard, you will want to inspect to make sure the ring and lid are seated securely so that there are no gaps that could allow cold air to get into the pit and freeze the water line and meter.

A properly sealed pit will retain the natural heat from the ground inside the pit which helps prevent freezing. Hot air rises and cold air descends, so gaps will allow hot air out and let cold air in. Your plumbing contractor can assist with this too, as the property owner is also responsible to ensure the integrity of the meter pit.

Also, if your water meter is in your garage, leaving the garage door up for extended periods of time during freezing temperatures can allow the water meter

and service line pipes to freeze and then potentially burst. Make sure that you take adequate precautions to prevent this from happening.



SEWER LATERAL CLEANOUT CAPS AND SUMP PUMPS

Please take a moment to inspect the sewer lateral cleanout cap located on your property to make sure that it is not damaged and is securely attached to prevent rainwater and snow melt from entering the sanitary sewer system.

This is referred to as "clear water" also known as Inflow and Infiltration (I&I), and unnecessarily increases the amount of sewage sent to CEG for treatment and reduces capacity in the sanitary sewer mains. As a result of that, increased sewage treatment costs can impact the need for sewer rate increases.

Sump pumps are not allowed to be connected into sanitary sewer lines. As mentioned above, this clear water unnecessarily increases the amount of



sewage sent to CEG for treatment and reduces capacity in the sanitary sewer mains for sewage. This also can impact the need for sewer rate increases. Sump



pumps should be properly discharged onto the ground or to storm sewers and drainage ditches.

WATER METERS

Lawrence Utilities would like to remind you that regardless if your water meter is located inside or outside in a meter pit, it must always be easily accessible in case of emergencies, required maintenance, getting meter readings or meter replacement.

Please do not obstruct access to the water meter. Obstructing access to the water meter could result in disruption to your water service.

Also, residents should know where their inside water service shut off valve is located in case of emergencies and should make sure that they are in proper working order.

Leaks on water lines that supply bathroom sinks, kitchen sinks, and toilets unfortunately do occur and knowing where your water shut off valve is located to be able to shut off your water service quickly can possibly prevent costly damages and repairs to your property.



RAIN AND SNOW MELT

Please help to keep your drainage ditches and gutter lines free and clear of debris, trash, and grass clippings. This will help keep water flowing when it rains and prevent flooding.

It is also good to check your gutters frequently during the fall season too so that leaves/twigs do not build up a blockage that can result in roof damage and water damage inside your home too. Clogged gutters in winter can result in ice dams that can cause even worse damage to your roof and ceilings.



UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

HALLOWEEN FEST

OCTOBER 18, 2024 • 6PM-8PM

LAWRENCE CIVIC PLAZA
5710 LAWRENCE VILLAGE PKWY

