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Tom Mulvihill, November GM Column

WINTERIZE WATER WISE!!!

Winter is upon us and Jack Frost will soon be nipping at our noses! This means many Indian Wells Valley Water District customers have already begun prepping their homes and gardens for chilly temperatures. Here are some suggestions for optimum water efficiency during the coldest time of the year that will also help you cut water usage when hot weather returns:

- Have your evaporative cooler cleaned and serviced. This will ensure your unit runs at maximum efficiency when you turn it on again next spring.
- Wrap all outdoor faucets and above ground pipes with an insulating material like canvas, burlap or even thick plastic. This should help prevent leaks caused by freezing and thawing.
- Cut back on your irrigation schedule – many trees only need watering 1-2 times per month; warm season grass only needs watering about 5-7 minutes once a week as it will experience a period of dormancy; and drought resistant plants can go 10 days without watering. Also, remember to water during daylight hours to avoid freezing. For more detailed information on this subject, stop by District offices and pick up *Landscape Watering by the Numbers – A Guide for the California Desert*. It's a wonderful resource and it's free.
- If you take a winter vacation, leave your kitchen and bathroom cupboards open to allow heat to circulate near plumbing.
- In case of emergency, know the location of your water supply shut off valve.

If you have an uncontrolled leak at your home or business or notice one somewhere in our community, contact the Water District. Our crews are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Put this number on your emergency contact phone list: (760) 375-5086.

Your Indian Wells Valley Water District wishes you a happy and safe Thanksgiving!