

Winterizing Hose Bibbs

Exterior hose bibbs (also called hose faucets or sillcocks) are susceptible to freezing when exposed to low temperatures. Water trapped inside the valve body or supply line can freeze, expand, and cause cracking of the faucet, piping, or interior plumbing connections. Proper winterization minimizes the risk of freeze-related damage and costly water leaks.

Winterization Procedure for Frost-Proof Hose Bibbs

- Remove garden hoses and accessories.
- Turn shutoff valve off completely.
- Verify proper drainage by briefly turning the faucet on and off to allow the internal tube to drain.
- Install an insulated cover in areas with extreme temperatures.

Inspection Checklist

- ☐ Check faucet body for cracks or corrosion.
- ☐ Verify shutoff valve is operating properly.
- ☐ Inspect for slow leaks or dripping.
- ☐ Confirm adequate insulation around the supply line near exterior walls.
- ☐ Ensure faucet is pitched slightly downward toward the exterior (for frost-proof types).

Spring Recommissioning

- Close the exterior faucet.
- Slowly reopen the interior shutoff valve.
- Check for leaks at the faucet, piping, and interior connections.
- Run water for 30–60 seconds to flush debris.

Safety and Damage Response

If freeze damage is suspected:

- Do not pressurize the system immediately.
- Inspect piping and faucet body for cracks.
- Slowly restore water pressure while monitoring for leaks.