

Currents & *Waves*

Winter 2025/2026



How to Winterize Your Vacant Home

By Water Superintendent, Adam Breunig

Leaving your home vacant during winter without proper precautions can lead to serious damage — most notably, frozen and burst pipes. Here's a step-by-step guide to ensure your home stays protected during the colder months.

Shut Off the Water Supply:

- * One of the most important steps is to shut off the main water supply to prevent water from freezing in the pipes and causing them to burst.
- * Locate and close the main isolation valve inside your home.
- * **For extra protection, contact your utility provider to arrange a technician to shut off the water service line valve at the property line.**

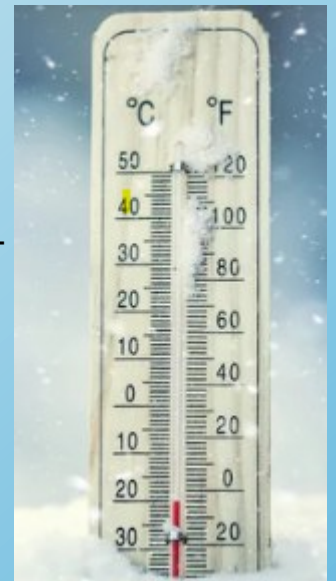
Shut Off and Drain the Water Heater:

- * Gas Water Heater: Turn the thermostat to the "Off" position. Shut off the gas valve.
- * Electric Water Heater: Turn off the power at the breaker panel.
- * After shutting it off, drain the tank by opening the drain valve and a nearby hot water faucet to let air in to help it empty.

Drain All Supply Lines and Plumbing Fixtures

- * Open all faucets, showers, and exterior hose bibs to drain residual water.
- * Don't forget appliances connected to water lines (e.g., washing machine, dishwasher, fridge).
- * If your home uses a well system, drain the pressure tank as well.
- * For added protection, blow out the pipes with an air compressor to ensure all water is removed.

Properly winterizing your home will save you from expensive repairs and water damage in the spring. Always consider consulting a professional if you're unsure or if your home has a complex plumbing system.



Employee Spotlight—Welcome to WW&LC

Owen Yenter joined Water Works and Lighting Commission as the Director of Engineering and Metering on Monday, June 16th.

Originally born in Wisconsin Rapids, Owen later graduated from Pacelli High School in Stevens Point. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville.

Owen was most recently employed by Dairyland Power Cooperative in La Crosse as an Electrical Engineer then Supervisor, Electrical Engineering.

Owen has been married for seven years to his high school sweetheart, Danielle. They have one son and are expecting a girl later in November.

He is an avid outdoorsman hunting deer, waterfowl and upland birds annually in Wisconsin and other states.

Please join us in welcoming him back to the community!



Five Easy Ways to Save Energy in your Home

1. Bathroom: Unplug the hair dryer, curling iron, electric shaver when not in use.
2. Kitchen: Unplug the coffee maker, toaster oven, and other small appliances.
3. Living Room: Connect your entertainment center to a power strip to easily switch it all off.
4. Office: Keep your computers in sleep mode or turn them off when not in use.
5. Appliances: Consider replacing old appliances with Energy Star devices, which use less standby power.



With the Holiday Season approaching, we would like to wish our customers a happy and joyous celebration. If you are looking for a last minute holiday gift idea, consider a gift certificate from Water Works and Lighting Commission. We can mail your certificate to our customer indicating the monetary amount of your gift. Call or stop in our office for details.



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