



How to prepare for BAD WEATHER

Bad weather can happen any time so it is important to be prepared for anything it may bring. Knowing how to prepare for bad weather conditions in the home can save unnecessary stress and cost. Here are a few ways that can assist in preparing for bad weather.

HOUSES

PROTECT YOUR PIPES FOR WINTER

- * Fully insulate all pipes and tanks in the attic space and anywhere else where pipes/tanks are exposed and liable to freeze
- * During a spell of sustained freezing weather, open the attic trap door. This allows warm air from other parts of the house to circulate and will help to prevent pipes/tanks from freezing
- * Check that the attic insulation is in good condition. If the attic is insulated at floor level remove the insulation in the vicinity of pipes/tanks to reduce risk of freezing
- * If a house will be vacant over a severe cold weather period:-
 - ◆ Turn off the water supply at the stop valve
 - ◆ Leave the heating on a low setting with the attic trap door open



KNOW HOW TO TURN OFF THE WATER

A house will have an internal stop valve - make sure to know where it is and how to turn it on and off. It can usually be found under the kitchen sink or in a utility room closest to where the water supply enters your home



Typical stop valve

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS NO WATER

- * First check with neighbours to see if their water supply has been affected. If they still have a water supply it is likely that your private pipework has frozen
- * Follow the steps on thawing pipework or contact a plumber
- * If neighbours also have no water
 - ◆ Contact South Dublin County Council at:-
During Office Hours Tel (01) 4149000
After Office Hours Tel (01) 4574907
 - ◆ Check South Dublin County Council webpage **www.sdcc.ie**, facebook or twitter for notices of water restrictions in the area

THAWING PIPEWORK

- * Before starting to thaw the system, protect or remove anything which might be damaged by thawing water running from a potential burst
- * Turn off the water at the main stop valve. If there's a stop valve fitted on the attic storage tank turn this off also to stop water leaving the tank. This will reduce the amount of water which can escape and therefore minimise damage
- * Open the tap closest to the frozen part of the pipe - this will help reduce the pressure on the pipe work
- * Thaw the pipe using a hot water bottle placed on the exposed pipe, starting from the tap-side of the frozen area. (This process may take several hours - reheat the water in the bottle hourly)
- * When flow is restored and there is no evidence of a burst turn off the tap and reopen stop valves
- * Insulate pipe work to prevent further freezing
- * DO NOT leave taps running to prevent freezing of pipes as this could cause severe water shortages

WHAT TO DO IF INTERNAL PIPEWORKS HAVE BURST:

- * Turn off the water at the main supply stop valve.
- * Contact a Plumber

GENERAL WATER CONSERVATION

Help to maintain water supply by conserving water

- * Do not leave taps running while carrying out daily tasks such as brushing teeth, hand washing, food preparation
- * Check the house for leaks and repair any dripping taps, cisterns, tanks or pipes.
- * If a leak is seen in a public place, report it to the Council on 01 4149000 or online at **www.fixyourstreet.ie** or **www.customercare.ie**
- * Only run dishwashers and washing machines when they are full
- * Fit a displacement device in the toilet cistern to reduce the flush volume
- * Reduce time in the shower and avoid having baths
- * Fill the kettle with enough water for immediate needs
- * For more information see South Dublin County Council's "Water Drop" - Water Conservation Video **www.sdcc.ie** or **www.taptips.ie**



"Stop running water"
- SDCC water conservation video

FOOTPATHS

- * Care should be taken on footpaths which have not been gritted
- * Businesses and householders can assist local communities by clearing a path for pedestrians in the snow and underlying ice (where it exists)
- * If clearing snow from directly outside a commercial premises or a private residence, caution should be exercised, taking note of the following:
 - ◆ Please be aware of the risks involved
 - ◆ Wear warm and protective clothing, appropriate footwear and use the correct equipment
 - ◆ Start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow
 - ◆ Under no circumstance pour hot or cold water on the footpath as this will freeze almost immediately
 - ◆ Use Salt to treat the footpath surface
 - ◆ Do not block Road Drainage or Kerb Drainage Gullies
 - ◆ Do not throw debris cleared from footpaths onto Roads or Pavements

GULLIES



Clear gully



Blocked gully



- * Gullies are the ground level drains that surface water discharge into
- * Fallen leaves, mud and debris can block street gullies, preventing them from draining away rainwater properly
- * Blocked gullies can cause flooding
- * Removing leaves and debris from the grating on gullies can alleviate flooding
- * If a gully is overflowing it will most likely clear when the leaves are removed
- * The list of street and gully cleaning can be found on www.sdcc.ie
- * Do not park over gullies as this prevents gully cleaners from accessing the gully to carry out the cleaning process
- * Report any broken gullies to www.fixyourstreet.ie or www.customercare.ie
- * Do not pour any liquids or place any materials into gullies as these liquids/materials go straight to the local waterways & do not go through a treatment process
- * Every autumn, the Council clears up leaves from the footpaths and roads, public parks and playgrounds, grass verges and council-owned car parks across South Dublin County. Crews use vacuum collection machines where leaf fall is known to be heaviest. Unfortunately, the Council can't remove fallen leaves from private property, whether it's an office or a factory or someone's garden. We have to stick to this rule, even when the leaves falling on to the property drop from trees on a public footpath. So please don't sweep leaves from your property out into the street - put them in your brown wheelie bin or composter instead
- * Report large build ups of leaves in a public place, to South Dublin County Council

