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PRESS RELEASE

Winterizing Water Wells: A Guide to Ensure Reliability and Conservation

Those freezing nights (and days) are creeping up quickly in the Prairielands GCD area, and even though we cannot predict the weather, well owners must proactively safeguard their private water systems against the challenges posed by unpredictable winter weather. Winterizing water wells is crucial, especially in states like Texas where wells often have above-ground completions with exposed pipes. Taking simple preventative measures not only ensures the resilience of well systems during winter but also contributes to water conservation efforts in a state that frequently faces extreme drought and water challenges.

Inspecting and Preparing Your Water Well

Frozen pipes can be a common issue during winter, leading to water waste and potential damage. By insulating pipes, especially those exposed to cold temperatures, you can prevent freezing and reduce the risk of leaks. Before winter sets in, it's essential to inspect your water well, pump house, and associated components. Begin by insulating exposed pipes and components to prevent freezing. Cleaning out enclosures provides room to insulate above-ground water lines and other components, such as pressure tanks. Ensure that all vital above-ground components are protected with insulating material, and wrap plumbing from the well to storage tanks with insulation to prevent freezing. The smaller the pipe in diameter and closer to the ground, the more vulnerable it is to freezing.



Winterizing your water well is not only a practical step to ensure a reliable water supply during winter but also a responsible measure in water conservation. By taking necessary precautions and adopting efficient water management practices, homeowners contribute to the sustainability of water resources.

Preparing Well Houses



If you have a well house, ensure it is adequately enclosed to prevent cold air from entering. Identifying and sealing gaps or cracks in the well house helps maintain a consistent temperature, reducing the risk of freezing. Inspect the well casing and the surrounding ground for holes to prevent contamination. Adding dirt or concrete around the well house protects it from runoff water and ensures proper drainage. Consider adding heat sources like heat lamps or space heaters when temperatures dip below freezing. However, use caution with these devices to prevent potential fire hazards.

Insulating the walls and ceiling of well houses provides additional protection. If you don't have a well house, placing a well cover over the wellhead shields it from the elements, protecting the casing and preventing debris, ice, or snow from entering. Ensure that the cover is well-ventilated to prevent condensation.



Winterizing Irrigation Systems

Before freezing temperatures persist, it's crucial to winterize irrigation systems and outdoor spigots, whether on a private water well or not. Drain the irrigation system and unhook hoses from outdoor faucets or fixtures. Adjusting the irrigation schedule based on shorter days and lower temperatures prevents unnecessary water waste. By reprogramming your irrigation system to run less frequently and for shorter durations, you can ensure that your landscape receives just the right amount of water without unnecessary waste.

Consider investing in smart irrigation systems that adjust watering based on weather conditions, preventing overwatering. Turning off irrigation systems during winter months when most plants go dormant is acceptable, preventing damage and ensuring proper functionality in the spring.



Applying mulch around plants helps retain soil moisture, reducing the need for excess irrigation. Mulch acts as insulation, protecting plant roots from temperature fluctuations and minimizing evaporation, especially during winter when plants are more susceptible to moisture loss.

Preparing water wells for winter might not be at the top of the to do list, especially after experiencing the recent severe drought conditions. However, early preparation is key to ensuring the reliability of well systems and conserving water in the long run. By following these practical steps, well owners can navigate winter with confidence, contributing to the sustainability of water resources and protecting one of our most precious asset that is water.

For more information on water wells and our local groundwater resources, visit the District's website at www.prairielandsgcd.org, contact the Prairielands GCD office at 817-556-2299, or follow us on Social Media.

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