



# How to protect your water well system

To prepare your water well system for freezing temperatures, especially in a typically warmer climate like South Texas where homes may not be as winterized, you can follow these five key steps:

1. **Insulate Exposed Pipes:** Use foam pipe insulation to cover all exposed pipes. Insulating your pipes is the most effective way to prevent them from freezing. Pay special attention to pipes that are located in unheated areas or outside the home.
2. **Apply Heat Tape or Cable:** For pipes that are highly susceptible to freezing, apply heat tape or a heat cable along them. This tape or cable has a built-in thermostat that will keep the pipes warm during cold spells.
3. **Protect the Well Head and Pump:** Cover the well head and any above-ground components of your well pump with insulated covers. This will help keep the components above freezing temperatures. Make sure not to block any ventilation openings in pump houses.
4. **Seal and Insulate the Pump House:** If your well system includes a pump house, ensure that it is properly sealed and insulated. Check for any drafts or openings and seal them to keep the warm air in and cold air out.
5. **Have a Backup Power Source:** In case of a power outage, have a backup power source ready to ensure that your heating mechanisms continue to function. This could be a generator or any alternative power source suitable for your system.

Ballard Water Well recommends a temperature controlled enclosure to protect your water well from freeze damage. Below are other recommendations to decrease the chance of system failure. You can turn the breaker off and open all exterior spigots to drain your system. Draining your pipes will avoid pump issues, however, piping can still be damaged. Open all exterior spigots 10%-20% at a solid stream for the entire time of the freeze can avoid damage in piping that has a continuous flow. Insulating exposed piping only slows the freezing process. Be sure

to insulate the small brass nipple under the pressure switch and avoid covering the Snifter/Schraeder air valve or the relief valve discharge outlet. By following these steps, homeowners in South Texas can significantly reduce the risk of their water well systems freezing during the upcoming cold weather.

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