

A publication of the Board of Municipal Utilities

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Avon Lake
Regional Water

EARLY COLD SNAP A REMINDER TO TAKE STOCK OF YOUR HOME'S WINTER WATER PREPAREDNESS

We've warmed up a bit from our freezing November, so make the most of it by ensuring your home's water pipes are ready for winter. Thousands of people fall victim to frozen pipes each year. A burst pipe can cost thousands of dollars in damage in just one night. Even a small crack in one of your indoor water pipes can send as much as 250 gallons of water into your home in 24 hours. Combine a burst pipe with holiday travel and you've got a recipe for disaster. By now, you should have already closed water valves going to outdoor hose bibs/faucets. Complete the job with these winterization tips.

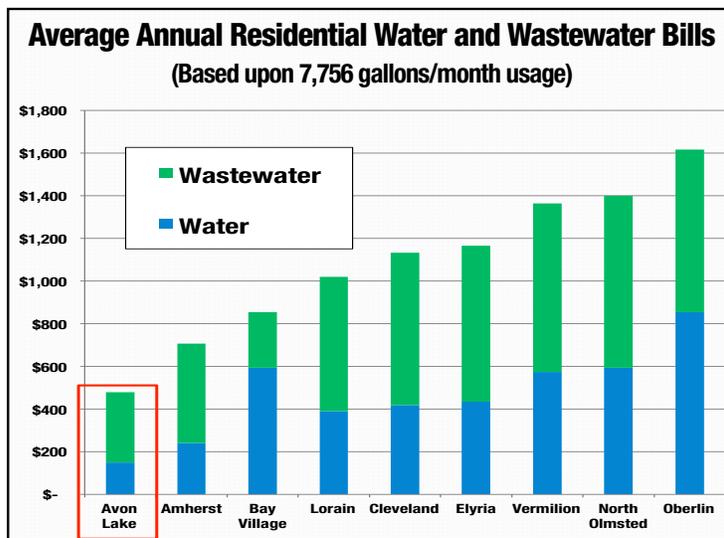


- Do a visual inspection of your home's exterior. Seal any cracks you see with insulation or caulk to keep cold air out.

- Wrap exposed plumbing in attics, basements, and/or crawl spaces with insulation.
- Keep your indoor thermostat at or above 65 degrees to keep pipes near outdoor walls defrosted.
- Keep one faucet (ideally, one on an exterior wall) dripping a mixture of both cold and hot water at all times. Even the tiniest trickle can help prevent freezing.
- When gone for more than a day or two, have someone stop to check your home daily when temperatures drop significantly or if there is a power outage. They should look out for water-damaged floors, wet walls or ceilings, standing water, or just confirm that a faucet has been left dripping and that the house is warm enough to prevent frozen pipes. If this is not possible and you know severe temperatures are coming during your absence, you can drain your water system and shut it off before leaving.
- Know how to spot a frozen pipe. If the faucet is turned on but water does not come out, the pipe is likely frozen. Call us (440-933-6226) to make sure there is no service interruption. Assuming there is not, leave the faucet on. You can try thawing a frozen pipe with a hair dryer or space heater. Start close to the faucet, and work toward the coldest section of the pipe. Do not use open flames or torches to defrost pipes. 💧

THE RESULTS ARE IN: AVON LAKERS STILL PAY LESS FOR WATER (AND WASTEWATER) THAN MOST OHIOANS

Recently, the 2013 Ohio EPA Sewer and Water Rate Survey was published. Avon Lake residents' water bills rank in the lowest 1% statewide, and our wastewater bills rank in the lowest 10%. When Avon Lake's water and wastewater bills are compared to those of other cities with a population of 20,000 to 30,000 (like ours), Avon Lake bills are THE lowest. In fact, Avon Lake residents save more than \$500 per year compared to the average water and wastewater bill in those cities. 💧



Source: 2013 Ohio EPA Rate Survey

CONNECT WITH US TO HEAR IT FIRST

Last January, many of you helped Avon Lake avert a water crisis by conserving water during the frazil ice event.

During November's cold snap, Lake Erie was still too warm for frazil ice. Frazil ice forms when supercooled air descends on very cold, open water. But frazil ice will happen again. It's simply a question of whether it affects our water supply. We told you last newsletter about the changes we've made to prevent future frazil ice impact on your service. Connecting with us on Facebook is a great way to take preventive action of your own. If you haven't already, go to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/avonlakewater and "like" us to receive social media notifications with instructions in times of water crisis, or water-related info and tips all year long.



Not on Facebook? Don't worry. We'll also send word via CODERED calls/texts, too, in times of water emergency. (Sign yourself up for the free CODERED emergency alert system at <http://alwtr.us/CodeRd.>) 💧

RATE HIKES ARE FOR THE BIRDS ...

... and for the fish and aquatic insects in the lake, not to mention reliable water delivery (read: fewer breaks and outages). Rising rates also help ensure the future of our region by protecting our greatest natural resource: Lake Erie. Inflation and aging infrastructure constantly drive up our costs as we deliver and clean your water and wastewater, which we must pass on to you. This month, the Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities approved three-percent water rate increases beginning in the summers of 2015 and 2016. Though rising costs are a way of life even in the world of water, here's the good news: The approved increase will only raise the average Avon Lake bill by about five cents a day, or about \$20 each year. Considering Avon Lakers pay the lowest rates in the region and our average annual rate increase is lower than most utilities, Avon Lake will remain one of the best places in the country to pay for water. 💧

2015 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



Speaking of rates paying for infrastructure costs, here are the construction projects we're undertaking in 2015:

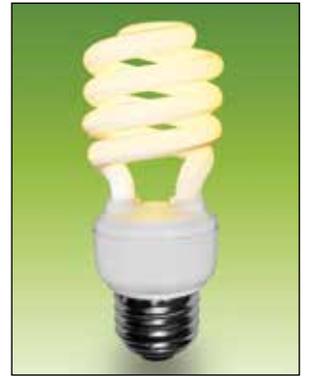
- Completion of Moorewood basin sewer separation
- Construction of new water lines on Harvey Parkway, Yoder, and Midway
- Construction of new water lines on Walker Road (from 83 to Jaycox)
- Rehabilitation of the sanitary sewer for Mull-Norman residents
- Construction of water line on Inwood, Berkshire, and Fairfield
- Rehabilitation begins on our wastewater treatment plant 💧

GOING GREEN WHENEVER WE CAN

Just recently, we inked a deal with a power company to provide all our electricity from renewable sources. That's the emissions equivalent of taking 2,500 cars off the road each year.

PLEASE RECYCLE SMALL FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS

CFLs (compact fluorescent lamps), the popular, energy-efficient, coil-type bulbs you likely have in your home, contain mercury vapor. To keep mercury out of Lake Erie, **do not dispose of these bulbs in your home garbage or recycling bins.** Instead, drop them off at CFL recycling locations at the front of home improvement stores such as Lowe's or at Lorain County Solid Waste District, 540 Abbe Road, open Monday and Wednesday from noon until 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 💧



The Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities meets at our administration building, 201 Miller Road, at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. As always, all are welcome to attend.

Save a tree while keeping your costs down.

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avonlakewater.org

Stay connected with us.

Don't forget to Like us on Facebook, Follow us on Twitter, and register your home for the CodeRED emergency alert system at avonlakewater.org/get-connected/ for the latest in water-related tips and updates.



Did You Know?



FIRE HYDRANTS ARE DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO WATER LINES. IT IS OUR JOB TO BUY AND CONNECT FIRE HYDRANTS FOR EACH NEW WATER LINE AS IT IS BUILT.