



I DON'T LEAVE THE TV ON FOR THE COFFEE TABLE. WHY HEAT AN EMPTY HOUSE?

It only makes sense. My house shouldn't have to work so hard when I'm taking it easy on vacation. So now I adjust my thermostat, turn off my water heater and unplug as much as I can before I pull away, and those simple acts save me some serious money. Money I can spend on things like vacations. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

73233 State Route 70, Portola, CA 96122

BEFORE YOU HEAD SOUTH FOR THE WINTER...



BE SURE YOUR HOME IS SNUG AND SECURE

The tips in this brochure can help you protect your home during a vacation or long winter absence, and save on your energy bills while you're away.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Use these tips to create a checklist of things that need to be done to winterize your home. Use your checklist to re-open your home when you return.

These suggestions will help you protect your home during a long winter leave if you choose to turn off the power and water:

- Turn off main water supply valve or stop the well pump.
- Drain pipes at their low-point drain valves or, if there is insufficient slope to the lines, by opening a pipe junction. If unsure if all water has drained from pipes, use an air compressor to blow out all water pipes.
- Insulate exposed plumbing pipes.
- Seal holes and cracks in exterior walls, foundations and around pipes that penetrate exterior walls.
- Cap stove pipes and chimneys, and close flues and dampers.



- Empty, unplug and prop open refrigerators and freezers. Be sure to follow manufacturer's directions.
- Store food in air-tight containers. Food attracts rodents and insects, which can damage electrical wiring, insulation and the rest of your home.

- Turn off the breaker to your water heater before draining the tank and pipes.
- Drain the water from your plumbing, toilets, and the expansion tank of your well pump. Don't forget your appliances such as dishwasher and

clothes washer (be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for draining and re-starting). Also, remove any whole-house or in-line filters. You may want to hire a local plumber to do these things for you.

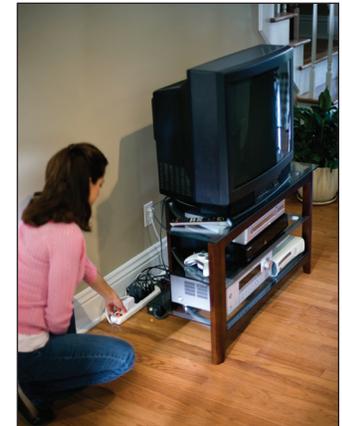
- Completely eliminate or dilute the water in drain and toilet traps by pouring a non-toxic, RV-type antifreeze solution in them as directed by the instructions. Non-toxic, RV antifreeze is commonly used to protect pipes from freezing, and is safe for use in and around drinking water systems when used as directed. **CAUTION: Never use "regular" automotive antifreeze for this purpose!**
- Unplug all electronic equipment and appliances such as entertainment center, computer, toasters, dryer, washer and any charging devices. This will protect your equipment and appliances from electrical surges that could happen during storms.
- Check with your insurance company about special requirements for vacation homes or homes left vacant while traveling.
- If you have a neighbor you can trust, you might want to leave them with a key and emergency contact information.

If you decide you do not want to fully winterize your home, follow these suggestions:

- Turn the heat down, but don't turn it off. Set your thermostat high enough to keep the inside temperature above freezing. Don't forget your pump house!
- Check furnace filters and ducting. Even though your heat is turned down, it will still be operating when the temperature drops below your set point.
- Open cabinets and doors to expose plumbing pipes to heat.
- Heat tape or space heaters with a low-temperature thermostat can be used on pipes that are in danger of freezing. Be sure all exterior pipes and hose bibs are well insulated.
- Turn your water heater to "vacation" or the

lowest setting.

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- If you do leave food in your refrigerator/freezer, use caution: you won't always know if the food has spoiled during a power outage. It may be more cost-effective to empty the unit and unplug it. Additionally, refrigerators are not as efficient when ambient temperatures drop near freezing, costing you more to operate.
- Make sure windows and doors are closed tightly.
- Unplug all electronic equipment and appliances such as entertainment centers, computer, washer, dryer and any battery charging devices. This will protect sensitive equipment from electrical surges that could happen during storms and keep your energy bills under control.



Be aware that unless you winterize your home, your home may still use a considerable amount of energy, even when you aren't there. Refrigerators, hot water heaters, furnaces and baseboard heaters will all continue to use energy, unless you turn off the breakers.

If you don't know how to complete the above tasks, consult a licensed professional. PSREC is not responsible for any damages resulting from your decision to turn off your water, power or lower your thermostat settings.