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County advises residents to keep water pipes and backflow preventers warm during cold snap

As frigid air barrels toward the state, plants aren't the only things that need to be covered during cold weather. Exposed water pipes such as backflow preventers and exterior water service or well pipes need protection, too.

"Temporary insulation methods like cardboard covers, blankets or wraps will help prevent exposed pipes from freezing," according to Tony Gipe, Customer Service manager for Sarasota County Utilities. "Keeping pipes warm can prevent ruptures or low water pressure issues from ice that could form inside the pipe."

Gipe says commercially manufactured insulation materials are available at local home supply stores in the plumbing, heating or air conditioning sections.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit www.scgov.net and select "B" and the "Backflow Prevention" link from the County "A-Z" list.

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