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

As a frigid arctic blast approaches the state, Sarasota County reminds residents that plants aren't the only things that need to be covered during extreme cold. Exposed water pipes such as backflow preventers and water service pipes or well piping on home exteriors 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 also will prevent ruptures or low water pressure issues that could result if ice forms 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 about keeping pipes and backflow devices insulated and working properly, visit the county's Backflow Prevention Web site at www.scgov.net (select "B" and then "Backflow Prevention" from the County A-Z list), or contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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