

Cutting off the Water to your Home

If you are going to be away from your home for extended periods, particularly in the winter, you should consider cutting off your water. This will avoid serious damage in case of a leak.

Some homeowners have installed an automatic water monitoring and shutoff system that is installed on the main water line as it enters your home. There are several systems available such as Flo by Moen <https://www.moen.com/flo> (see photo #1- it points to the cut off), Flume 2 <https://www.flumewater.com> or Flologic <https://www.flologic.com> . The advantage to such a system is that you can monitor your system for leaks and turn your water on and off remotely through an app on your phone. These systems require a power source to operate, a WiFi/internet connection for communication, and are reasonably priced.

If you do not have a monitoring and cut off system, you should know where your water cut off valve is located on your main water line as it enters your house. It is usually located outside just as it enters your home or sometimes in a crawl space or basement area easily accessible. It is not recommended that you cut off your water at the street or at the water meter. To cut off your water at the house, you turn the lever 90 degrees to turn off. (see photo #2 that shows the water turned off) The handle on the valve is in line with the water line when the water is on.

If you turn off your water and have concerns about your pipes freezing, leave your sink cabinet door open so heat can reach your pipes. If you don't have a generator and are concerned about not having heat in your house, consider draining your pipes. You do this by turning on your faucets after turning off the water and letting them run for a bit to empty the pipes. *If you do turn off your water, make sure you turn off your water heater at the electrical breaker or if you have an on-demand water heater, consult your owner's manual on what to do. Failing to do so could damage your water heater.*

Be sure to leave instructions for cutting off your water for guests staying at your house.



Photo #1 showing the cut off knob on the Flo by Moen unit



Picture 2: showing water lever in the off position on the main line into the house (located in the junction box at the house)