

# Richardson's Environmental Resources Newsletter



ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR RICHARDSON RESIDENTS • DECEMBER 2019

## Help prevent burst pipes

The first freeze of the season has passed, but more freezing temperatures are on the way. Unfortunately, with them come the chance of burst pipes, frozen sprinklers



and costly repair bills. Since water expands when it freezes, the pipes holding the water are in danger of bursting if they freeze.

By keeping the sprinkler system controller in the OFF position, you can avoid accidental sprinkler freeze ups on those upcoming cold nights. During periods of no precipitation, you can run your irrigation system manually on your designated water days when temperatures are above 34 degrees. However, during winter months in North Texas there is no need to run irrigation systems because normal precipitation is all dormant grass and plants require.

Here are a few other simple precautions that will help you decrease the chances of having plumbing problems this winter.

- Remove outdoor hoses and cover the faucet with an insulated cover, which can be purchased at home and garden stores.
- When the temperature is expected to drop below freezing, open sink cabinet doors to allow heat from the home's heating system to circulate around the pipes.
- The pipes most vulnerable to freezing are those located in attics, crawl spaces and outside walls. Leave a small trickle of both hot and cold water coming out of faucets attached to such pipes. Even a small trickle can help prevent pipes from freezing.
- If you go out of town while temperatures are expected to drop below freezing, keep the thermostat set to at least 55 degrees.

For more information, visit the American Red Cross website at [www.rdcross.org/10bEQV](http://www.rdcross.org/10bEQV).

## Recycle holiday cardboard boxes

The Richardson Public Services and Police departments have teamed up to help fight crime and recycle at the same time. Instead of putting your new electronics box out for pick-up, recycle and prevent crime. Temporary recycle locations will be in place from Dec. 21-Jan. 4, 2020. Locations listed are for flattened cardboard items ONLY:

- Custer Park, 700 W. Renner Rd. (near the tennis courts)
- Recycle Center, 102 N. Cottonwood Dr.
- 1500 Apollo Rd. (near the Huffhines Tennis Center courts)
- Breckinridge Park, 5200 Park Vista Rd. (near the baseball complex)

If you prefer to throw the boxes away, place them inside a black bag so you do not advertise that you have a new computer or TV in your home. For more information about preventing crime or to make your home and neighborhood safer, please contact the Richardson Police Department at 972-744-4955.

## "Tree cycle" your Christmas tree

When the holidays are over, don't forget to "tree cycle" your Christmas tree. Through a partnership with the City, Texas Pure Products takes the Christmas trees and turns them into mulch, which Richardson residents can then purchase at a discounted rate. Trees must be natural and with all ornaments, tinsels, lights, etc. removed.

From Dec. 26-Feb. 1, 2020, Richardson residents may "tree cycle" by dropping off trees 24 hours/day at the Municipal Service Center, 1260 Columbia Dr. or by requesting a Brush and Bulky Item Collection (BABIC). Make sure to request that the tree be collected for composting. You can request BABIC by calling 972-744-4111, online at [www.cor.net/babic](http://www.cor.net/babic) or through the MyRichardson app.

## UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

### Daily through Dec. 8

2019 Holiday Grease Roundup. *Don't pour grease and cooking oil down the drain, recycle it instead at the City's 24-hour/day grease drop-off location at 551 N. Plano Rd. Visit [www.defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com](http://www.defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com).*

### Dec. 24-25

Christmas holiday. *Most City facilities closed, and no solid waste pickup. Visit [www.cor.net/holidayschedule](http://www.cor.net/holidayschedule) for recycle makeup days.*

### Jan. 1

New Year's Day holiday. *Most City facilities closed, and no solid waste pickup.*

VISIT [WWW.COR.NET/EPI](http://WWW.COR.NET/EPI) FOR MORE INFORMATION