

DECEMBER 2017

C CONNECTIONS

TRI-COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

GOT HEAT?

With winter temperatures dropping, ensuring proper care of household water pipes will help keep them from freezing - the use of heat tape in Colorado is imperative each winter.

Heat tape is an electrical device that you wrap around your pipes to keep them warm. Properly installed insulation will make the heat tape more effective by ensuring that the heat reaches the pipe instead of leaking to the atmosphere. It comes with very specific instructions for installation and must be plugged in to an outlet to work.

Tapes should also come with a thermostat that will turn it on and off. Since you are potentially combining electricity and water, you need to make sure that your pipes don't leak. Heat tapes should be plugged into a dedicated outlet.

When you purchase new heat tapes, get the correct size for the intended job. Do not overlap the heat tape over itself nor wrap the tape at a 90 degree bend. Use according to the instructions.



MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Water is essential to keep any real Christmas tree lush and fresh. Understanding the tree's needs and how to keep it from drying out can ensure you have a beautiful, full, radiant tree for the entire holiday season. Ninety-eight percent of all Christmas trees in the United States are harvested from farms and are considered a crop like wheat or corn, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. The National Christmas Tree Association reports it is much better environmentally to use a natural agricultural crop and recycle it after the holidays. Before you place your tree in its stand, always make a fresh horizontal cut if possible. After time, generally 3 to 6 hours, the cut stump gets air in the plant tissue, which lessens a tree's water absorption capacity. A fresh cut will reopen the pores that absorb water. Once the water level falls below the fresh cut, drying will begin. Research has shown that plain tap water is best.

Some commercial additives and home concoctions can actually be detrimental to a tree's moisture retention and increase needle loss. Water holding stands that are kept filled with plain water will extend the freshness of trees for weeks. Merry Christmas!

RIDGWAY
RESERVOIR
LEVEL:

72%

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