

WINTERIZATION INFORMATION

2025 ALFRESCO 316 OUTDOOR



Winterizing outdoor plumbing fixtures (sinks, faucets, showers) is essential in Canada, where freezing temperatures can lead to burst pipes, damaged fixtures, and other costly repairs. Consistent and proper winterization will help to protect your outdoor plumbing fixtures.

MATERIALS & TOOLS REQUIRED:

1. Adjustable wrench or pliers
2. Pipe insulation (foam tubing or insulating tape)
3. Heat tape (optional, for extra protection in extremely cold areas)
4. Antifreeze (non-toxic, specifically for potable water systems)
5. Shut-off valve (if not already installed)
6. Plastic bags and rubber bands (to cover outdoor fixtures as needed)
7. Rags or towels (for drying pipes and fixtures)

INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP 1: SHUT OFF WATER SUPPLY

1. Locate the main shut-off valve to the outdoor water supply, usually found in the basement or crawlspace, near where the water supply line exits the house.
2. Close the shut-off valve tightly to prevent any additional water from flowing into the pipes that lead to the outdoor plumbing fixtures.

Tip: If you do not have a shut-off valve dedicated to the outdoor water supply lines and plumbing fixtures, consider installing one for future seasons. It will make the winterizing process much easier.

STEP 2: DRAIN THE PIPES

1. Open the outdoor plumbing fixtures – faucets and shower (both hot and cold, if applicable) to allow water to escape.
2. Go back to the shut-off valve indoors and look for a drain plug or drain cap on the plumbing line. Place a bucket underneath and remove the plug to let any remaining water drain out of the pipes.
3. If there is no drain plug, use compressed air (if available) to blow out any remaining water in the line. Make sure to use low-pressure air to avoid damaging the pipes.
4. Leave the outdoor plumbing fixtures - faucets and shower open to allow any remaining moisture to evaporate and to avoid pressure build-up in case of minor leaks.

Note: It's crucial to remove as much water as possible to prevent any water left in the pipes from freezing and expanding.

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STEP 3: APPLY ANTIFREEZE (Optional for Extra Protection)

1. Pour a small amount of **non-toxic antifreeze** (for potable water systems) into the sink and/or shower drains, if applicable, to prevent any residual water from freezing in the drain.
2. Add a small amount of antifreeze to the exposed faucet pipes, especially if they don't drain completely, to add an extra layer of protection.

Warning: Only use antifreeze that is safe for drinking water systems if there's a chance it could come into contact with your plumbing later on.

STEP 4: INSULATE EXPOSED PIPES AND FIXTURES

1. Use **foam pipe insulation** to cover any exposed pipes. This insulation will provide a buffer against fluctuating temperatures, especially if there are any pipes that run close to exterior walls.
2. Wrap **heat tape** around pipes for added protection if your area is prone to prolonged freezing temperatures. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure safe installation of the heat tape.
3. Wrap **plastic bags or heavy-duty plastic sheeting** around the showerhead and faucets, securing them with rubber bands. This will prevent moisture from accumulating on the fixtures and minimize exposure to the elements.

STEP 5: REMOVE AND STORE REMOVEABLE PARTS

Showers:

1. If your outdoor shower has detachable parts, like a **handheld showerhead**, **removable shower wand**, and **fixed shower heads**, detach them including the hose, to prevent cold damage.
2. Dry off these parts completely, and store them indoors in a safe, dry location.
3. **Cartridge Removal:** For both the freestanding and wall mounted shower systems, unscrew the handle that controls the water mixing of hot & cold water supply. Using an Allen key, unscrew the grub screw that keeps the handle body attached to the cartridge. Remove the handle body and cartridge from the mixer body including the rubber O-rings.
4. Dry the cartridge and store cartridge, O-rings, handle, handle body, and grub screw indoors in a safe, dry location.
5. Wrap plastic bags over the exposed mixer handle body.

Faucets:

1. If your outdoor kitchen faucet has detachable parts, like a **handheld spray head**, best to wrap with insulation to help prevent any cold damage.
2. **Cartridge Removal:** Unscrew the faucet handle from the handle body. Using an Allen key, unscrew the grub screw that keeps the handle body attached to the cartridge. Unscrew the cartridge housing trim to expose the cartridge. Remove the cartridge from the handle body including the rubber O-rings.
3. Dry the cartridge and store cartridge, O-rings, handle, handle body, cartridge housing trim and grub screw indoors in a safe, dry location.
4. Wrap plastic bags over the exposed faucet cartridge body.

STEP 6: CHECK & TEST IN EARLY SPRING

When Spring arrives bringing warmer temperatures consistently above 10° Celsius, it's a good idea do some preliminary checks.

1. Inspect all outdoor plumbing fixtures for any visible cracks or damage.
2. Re-install all parts and components that was stored for the season including, shower heads and wands, hoses, cartridges, handle bodies and handles and all O-rings accordingly.
3. **Slowly** open the main outdoor water supply line that was identified inside the house to turn the water back on. Watch and inspect carefully for any leaks including all faucet and shower water lines, and sink drains, as the system re-pressurizes.
4. Ensure water flows normally and that there is no air or antifreeze left in the pipes.

Tip: If you encounter any leaks or issues during this initial season maintenance and test, repair any and all issues before using the outdoor plumbing fixtures for the season.

MAINTENANCE TIPS & ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Mark your shut-off valve** so you can locate it easily for Winterization and seasonal maintenance.
 - **Replace insulation** if it appears worn or damaged at the start of the season.
 - **Inspect pipes and fixtures** regularly to prevent rust or corrosion from affecting the longevity of your outdoor plumbing fixtures.
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Following these steps will help protect your outdoor plumbing fixtures from freezing winter conditions in Canada. It may take a little time to complete, but the effort will save on potential repairs and help extend the lifespan of your outdoor plumbing products.