



Your source for all things water

Winter is here — Be ready for the unexpected

The best way to weather an emergency is to prepare for it ahead of time. SAWS wants to help you Be Ready for the Unexpected in case we're faced with extreme winter weather and the hardships it can bring.

In addition to our own efforts behind the scenes to make San Antonio's water plants, pipes and pumps more winter-hardy, we've gathered our best tips and tools to help you protect your home and property when temperatures dip.

Even though weather cold enough to damage pipes is rare here, it can happen. So it's helpful to know what to do to minimize your risk. For starters:

- **Cover hose bibs** and make sure any hoses are disconnected.
- **Wrap pipes in unheated areas** such as garages, water heater closets and crawl spaces.



- **Turn off irrigation** at the shut-off valve.
- **Cover in-ground valve boxes.**
- **Insulate backflow devices** if they're above ground.

Protecting, maintaining and repairing the pipes on your property can help you avoid damage from leaks (and save you money on your water bill). Invest a little time or money now to help avoid costly repairs later.

SAWS' step-by-step videos and infographics will help you Be Ready

for all kinds of water-related emergencies.

From power outages to boil water notices, get the information you need at saws.org/BeReady. (en español: saws.org/preparate.)

SAWS is planning 50 years into your water future

San Antonio Water System is always working to ensure our growing community has plentiful water supplies for generations to come. As Bexar County's population continuously expands, so does the demand for water.

That's why SAWS regularly updates its Water Management Plan, the city's roadmap for forecasting our long-term water needs and ways to meet those needs.

The plan is updated about every five years to ensure the community has sustainable and affordable water supplies for generations to come. For the draft 2023 Water Management Plan, SAWS is planning for more

than 3.5 million customers by 2025.



Focus areas include community engagement, population, water demand patterns, climate change and water supplies to meet demand through 2025.

Throughout the planning process, SAWS has engaged with neighborhood associations and other organizations throughout the community. Additional input is welcome and encouraged when the draft plan is made available on March 1, 2024.

The plan will be presented to the SAWS Board for approval later in 2024. Stay up to date on the latest developments at WaterCitySA.com.





Set adrift a wish for the coming year during **Wish: Water Lanterns**, Friday, Jan. 12. Inspired by traditional Japanese floating and hung lanterns, the family friendly event features illuminated garden pathways and live music. Tickets at sabot.org/events.

Event Calendar

Second Saturday Habitat Work Day

Jan. 13

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Martin Luther King Jr. March

Jan. 15

MLK Academy
3501 MLK Drive
sanantonio.gov/MLK

Pollinator Patches and Pocket Prairies

Jan. 20

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org/events

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

Switch off your sprinklers to save \$\$ in 2024

Did you know SAWS sewer charges are based on your average winter water use? That means the less you water your lawn this winter, the less you'll pay for sewer service in 2024.

Bottom line: Saving water now can add up to big savings throughout 2024.

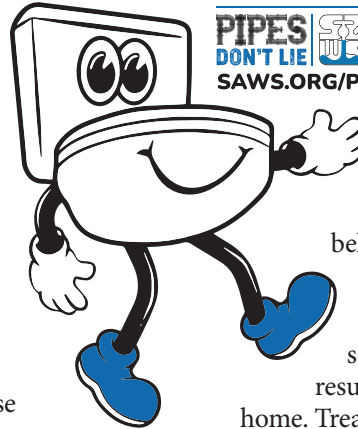
So, turn off your sprinkler system and let Mother Nature do her thing — your grass is dormant now anyway.

Keep those pipes clog-free

There's nothing like a warm, homemade holiday meal with all your seasonal favorites — and nothing more disastrous than all those leftovers not being disposed of properly.

Fats, oils and grease clog your pipes and damage the sewer system. To avoid a sewer nightmare, toss leftovers, cooking grease and baking batter in the trash — NEVER down the drain or garbage disposal.

- Pour cooled liquid grease into a sealable container.
- Clean remaining grease and debris off pots and pan with a paper towel.



ONLY FLUSH THE 3 Ps
PIPES DON'T LIE!
SAWS.ORG/PIPES

- Dispose of both in your brown city trash bin.

Not sure what foods contain fats, oils and grease? The answer might surprise you: salad dressing, butter, creams and sauces, and even milk.

Remember: your toilet is not a trash can. Only the three 3-Ps belong in the toilet: pee, poop and (toilet) paper.

Flushing anything else — including so-called “flushable” wipes — can result in a sewage backup into your home. Treat your pipes right to keep your home (and neighborhood) clog-free!

Learn more at saws.org/pipes. Your plumbing will thank you!

Get to 'Know Your H2O'

Ready to make a splash in 2024? San Antonio Water System's Know Your H2O community events are coming to an area near you!

The family friendly gatherings will be an H2O adventure of learning, exploring and connecting with SAWS. From



hands-on activities to getting acquainted with the new ConnectH2O electronic water meters to chatting one-on-one with the SAWS team, you'll dive into all things water!

Details including dates, times and locations are coming soon to your mailbox — so keep an eye out for the announcement!

Nine is mighty fine

SAWS has done it again — the utility has been named one of San Antonio's Top Workplaces

The award is based on results from an employee survey covering company values and leadership; opportunities for training and career progression; quality of managers and overall working environment; and employee pay and benefits.

This year's honor makes number nine for SAWS since 2011. Join us doing work that matters. Visit saws.org/jobs.

