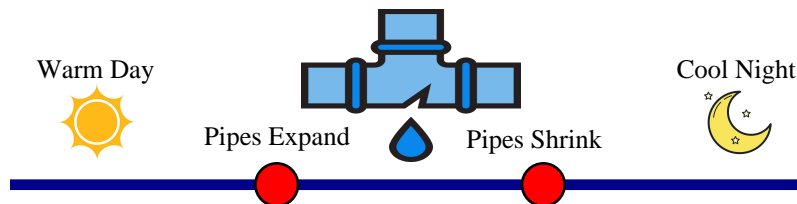




## Why Cooler Weather Can Lead to More Water Line Breaks



Over the next several days, our area is expected to have warm afternoons and much cooler nights. Even though a 24 degree temperature swing may not seem extreme, it is more than enough to affect underground water pipes.

Pipes expand when it is warm and shrink when it is cold. When this happens day after day, it puts stress on pipes, joints, and connections, especially in older parts of the system. Over time, this repeated movement can cause weak spots to crack or joints to loosen, leading to water line breaks.

Florida's soil is different from many northern states. Our soils are often sandy and less compact, which means they can shift more easily. In colder northern areas, soils are usually denser and pipes are installed deeper and built to handle harsher temperature conditions. Because our pipes are generally shallower and our soils move more, temperature swings can have a greater impact here.

Cooler weather can also change how and when people use water. These shifts can create small pressure changes in the system, adding to the strain on already stressed pipes.

### How You Can Help

1. Report problems quickly. If you see standing water, soggy ground, or notice a sudden drop in water pressure, contact the City right away.
2. Use water wisely. Try not to run several high water use appliances at the same time. This helps keep pressure changes to a minimum.
3. Protect exposed plumbing. Cover or insulate any exposed pipes, backflow devices, or irrigation parts during cooler nights.

City utilities crews are monitoring the system and are available 24 hours a day to respond. We appreciate your patience and your partnership in keeping our water system safe and reliable.