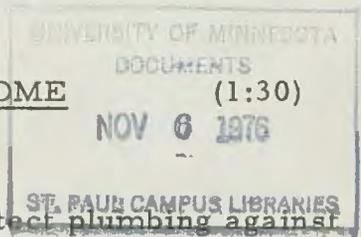


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WINTERIZING YOUR SEASONAL HOME

UM Ag Engineer Says:



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consumer radio briefs

Lake cabin owners should protect plumbing against freezing if the cabin is not heated. All water lines, the pressure tank, the water heater and other appliances must be drained and the check valve released.

To winterize P-traps below the kitchen sink and the bathroom lavatory, remove and empty them. There is little danger of any gases from the septic tank returning into the cabin since there is little or no bacterial action during the winter. If you want to keep a liquid seal in the P-trap, remove the trap and drain out the water. Replace the P-trap and add two cupfuls of a fifty-fifty mixture of water and permanent antifreeze.

Don't forget the toilet stool. The toilet water tank must be drained as well as the toilet stool itself. If you want to maintain a liquid seal in the toilet stool, remove about half of the water, measure it, and replace it with the same amount of permanent antifreeze. If you feel that the liquid seal is not necessary, remove as much water as possible and add two cups of permanent antifreeze. The reason for the antifreeze is that many toilet stools have a double bottom and you will not be able to remove all of the water. Adding antifreeze to the water which remains in the toilet stool will prevent freezing and cracking. The most suitable liquid to protect against freezing is a fifty-fifty mixture of water and permanent antifreeze. Small amounts of antifreeze will not harm the bacterial action in a septic tank. However, if you use your cabin frequently in the winter, it is best to remove the P-traps and save the water-antifreeze mixture for future use.

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