

# Freeze Night: Outdoor Faucets

North Texas does not stay cold. It slams you. This is the sheet I hand people after I put the same gadget on my own hose bibs.

## The product I actually use

**Freeze Miser** (screw-on, no batteries, no power). It senses water temperature, not the air. When the water in that faucet drops toward 37°F it starts a small drip by itself. I have these on my outdoor faucets and I have put a lot of them on other houses around here. A foam sock alone is not the same thing on a 12° night with wind.

## How to put it on — five minutes

- Pull the garden hose off. A hose left on is how a frost-free hydrant still splits.
- Hand-thread the Freeze Miser onto the faucet (or onto one leg of a Y-valve if you still want a hose on the other side).
- Open the faucet ALL THE WAY. If the handle is off, the device has nothing to work with.
- If you used a Y: Freeze Miser side open, hose side closed for the night.
- One device per faucet. Well risers and stock tanks get their own.

## Still do these — the gadget is not the whole house

- Know the indoor shutoff for that hose bib. Tag it.
- Irrigation backflow: drain or wrap. That brass body is a classic freeze casualty.
- Well house / pressure-tank closet: door shut, heat tape tested if you have it.
- Open the kitchen and bath cabinets on outside walls.
- After the freeze: if you hear water in a wall, leave the main off and find the split. Do not “just open it back up.”

## About those “frost-free” bibs

The name lies more often than it tells the truth. A frost-free sillcock is supposed to shut off inside the warm wall. Leave a hose on it and that column of water cannot drain — it sits in the wall and splits the valve body. I replaced two last week. I have stopped trusting the label. Pull the hose. Know the indoor shutoff. Put a Freeze Miser on what you leave live. If a bib already weeps or the handle spins, replace the faucet — do not bet the wall on the word frost-free.

The Freeze Miser is not magic on a faucet you left shut. Test a new one in the freezer for an hour before first freeze if you want to watch it open.

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| Faucet location _____ | Device on? Y / N | Indoor shutoff _____ |
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*This sheet is free. Full seasonal pack (all four seasons + monthly walk) — [shipp-shape.com/checklist](http://shipp-shape.com/checklist) · \$19*  
*I recommend Freeze Miser because I use it. I am not the manufacturer. Follow their install notes. Owner maintenance only.*