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Here's what some of our partners are doing:



It's as easy as 1-2-3 to be for water.  
Check out [www.epa.gov/watersense/pledge/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/pledge/index.html)  
to take the WaterSense Pledge.



The Groundwater Foundation turns 25!  
Visit, [www.groundwater.org](http://www.groundwater.org)  
to see 25 things you can do to protect groundwater!

## Compost Leaves Now for *Free* Mulch in the Spring!

Fall is here and so are those wonderful leaves. Did you know that those leaves are a great source of organic material for making compost? It's true. Since trees usually have extensive root systems, leaves end up being the recipient of all the nutrients gathered from soil and leaves are highly fibrous improving the aeration and composition of the soil.

Just about any typical leaf works well for composting. However, if oak or beech leaves are used the compost will be a bit more acidic making it quite suitable for plants such as rhododendrons and blueberries, but not others. You can tone down the acidity by adding some limestone to the leaves as you fill your compost bin or pile.

## Did You Know?

More people in the world have cell phones than access to a toilet.

Healthy Communities for Healthy Children

Check out [EPA's 31 Tips](#) to ensure children breathe clean air, drink safe water, and live in healthy communities.

## FUN FACT

It takes 2,072 gallons of water to make four new tires.

There are two important things you must do when composting leaves to ensure they will compost properly:

1. Make sure your leaves are shredded when adding them to your compost bin or pile. If you don't have a shredder or chipper, try mowing over them several times before you rake them up.
2. Make sure to add nitrogen to your compost bin or pile. Leaves contain very little nitrogen. Without the proper amount of nitrogen the leaves will decay slowly. Adding nitrogen can be as simple as adding grass clippings with the leaves in the compost bin or pile.

Once you have shredded your leaves and found an additional nitrogen source, add your leaves and nitrogen source to your compost bin or pile. Keep the leaves and nitrogen source moist but not wet and allow nature to take over.

It usually takes 3-6 months for leaves to make compost. So getting started now will ensure natural and free mulch in the spring!

## wellcare® Tips: Preparing for Winter

As winter approaches, you should make every effort to prevent the risk of your pipes from freezing, which can cause a blockage of your water supply and lead to the breaking of your pipes.

When pipes freeze the flow of the water is completely blocked. As water expands as it turns into ice, the pipes are very likely to burst. This can be an expensive problem to fix, and a disastrous occurrence in the frigid winter months. Both hot and cold water pipelines alike can freeze, so be sure to protect both.

Begin insulating your pipes before freezing temperatures hit. You can insulate your pipes with foam rubber sleeves or fiberglass insulation, wrapping the insulating material around the pipes. For extra protection in the areas of your home that are not heated, such as crawl space or basement areas, pipes may first be wrapped with special heating strips, and then outer insulation wrapped on top. For assistance contact a licensed plumber in your area.

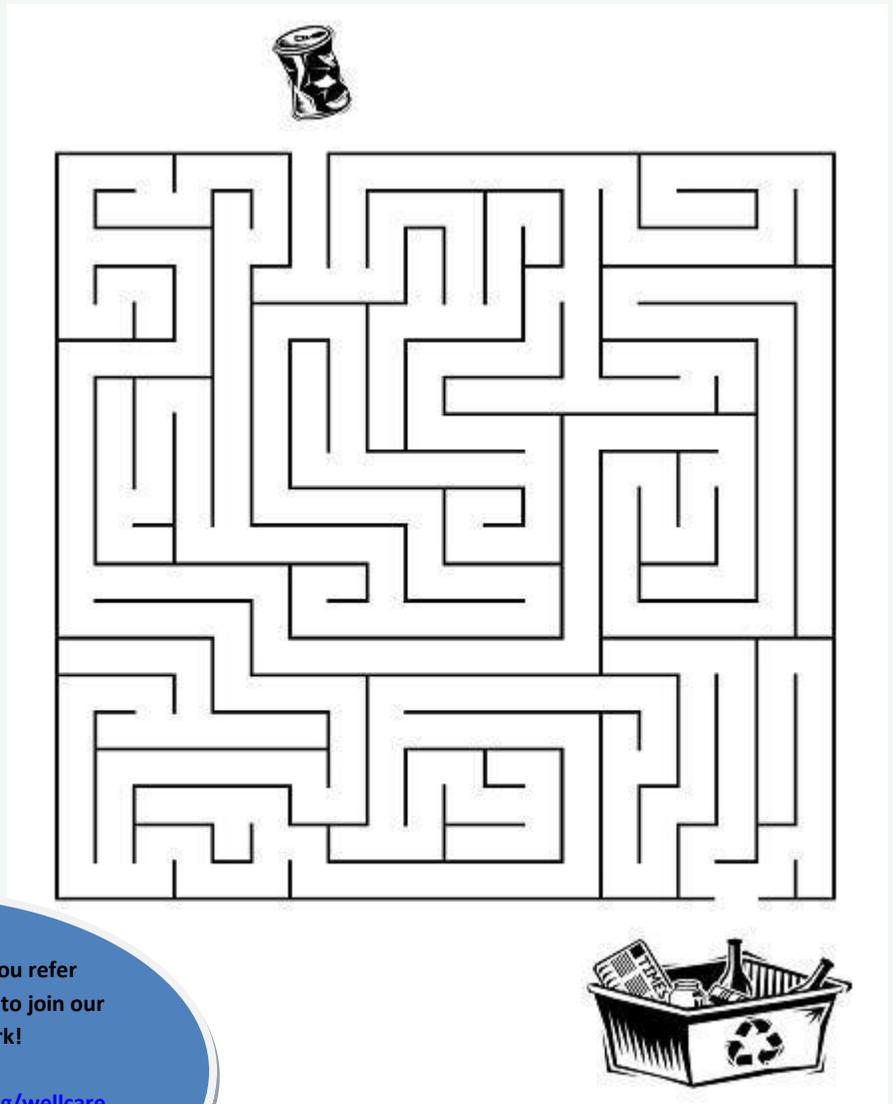
If your home has faucets that are attached to the outside of your home, you may have a shutoff valve somewhere on the pipe on the interior of your home. Turn off the water at this valve for the duration of the winter. If you do not have this type of valve, consider having one installed before winter. Switch the valve shut, and then open the outside valve to drain out the remaining water. This will protect the pipes that lead to the outdoors from freezing.

Try to spot any trouble with your pipes before it's too late, keeping an eye out for signs that may signify your pipes are beginning to freeze. For instance, is the water pressure becoming reduced? If you notice this problem prior to cold months this is not a sign of pipes freezing. Contact your well contractor for assistance.

If there is a cold spell and you fear your pipes are going to freeze despite the efforts you have taken there is still one more trick. Leave one of your faucets, farthest from your home's water supply, open and running slightly. If the water is running, it will be less likely to freeze.

### Kids Place: Recycle Maze

Can you help the can find the recycle bin?



Receive a **FREE** gift when you refer family, friends and neighbors to join our Well Owner's Network!  
To sign up visit:  
[www.watersystemscouncil.org/wellcare-network.php](http://www.watersystemscouncil.org/wellcare-network.php) or contact us at 888-395-1033.



## Hey Kids, you can protect groundwater too!

There are lots of easy ways you can help keep groundwater clean and safe in your neighborhood and community. Some examples include:

- Pick up litter in your neighborhood and on your school grounds.
- Encourage your friends and family to reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- You can go to your neighborhood or community leaders and ask them to sponsor a household hazardous waste collection day where people can bring their old paint, oil, or other chemicals to be disposed of properly.
- Design posters or flyers in your community that educate citizens on easy ways to conserve water.
- Ride a bike, walk, rollerblade or take a skateboard instead of taking the bus or riding in a car.
- Encourage friends and family to purchase "green" household cleaning alternatives and to limit their use of harmful chemicals like pesticides and fertilizers.
- Talk to you teacher at school about a groundwater class project or a school-wide groundwater education day.
- Celebrate Earth Day, every day.
- Consider forming a groundwater club that meets after school. As a club, you can work together to complete simple groundwater protection projects in your community.

The options are endless! It just takes one person to begin positive change toward groundwater and that person can be you!!

*Thanks to The Groundwater Foundation for the maze and tips.*

***Send us your tips and stories on how you are helping to protect groundwater in your community and you could be in an upcoming issue of our newsletter! Please include your name, address, grade in school and your age and send to:***



***Water Systems Council***

***ATTN: Charlene Greenstreet***

***1101 30<sup>th</sup> St., NW - Suite 500, Washington DC 20007.***

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