

Cold Weather Tips to Prepare and Prevent Frozen Water Pipes:

When the weather drops below freezing, water pipes in your home can freeze and burst. Here are some tips to help prevent this from happening.

- *Know the areas of your home where your water pipes are most vulnerable to freezing:*
 - Crawl Spaces, Outside Walls, Outside Faucets, Unheated Rooms, Basements, Garages, or Attics
- *Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines:*
 - Make your basement airtight by repairing broken windows and insulating your walls
 - Eliminate drafts
 - If you turn down the heat in areas of your home to conserve energy, beware of water pipes in the walls because they will be exposed to colder temperatures and could freeze.
- *Know the location of your main water shut-off:*
 - If a water pipe freezes or bursts, shut off the water immediately.
 - The main water shut off is usually located next to or near your water meter and will look like one of the shut-off's below, depending on if you have a ball or gate valve.



- *Protect your pipes:*
 - Wrap exposed water pipes with insulation or a heat trace tape
 - Newspaper or fabric could also work
- *Protect your water meter:*
 - If your meter is located outside of your home in a meter pit, make sure the lid is closed tightly.
 - If snow covers your meter pit leave it alone. The snow adds additional insulation for the meter located in the pit.
- *Drain water lines to outside faucets:*
 - Disconnect garden hoses
 - If you have a indoor valve, drain the line and shut the valve off

- *When temperatures drop below zero:*
 - Open the faucet and run a small trickle of water overnight to keep your water pipes from freezing.
 - The cost of running the extra water is far less than repairing your water pipe.

- *If your water pipes freeze:*
 - Shut the water off immediately
 - Do not attempt to thaw frozen pipes unless water is shut off
 - Apply heat to the frozen pipe by either warming the area where the pipe is located or use a blow dryer to warm up the entire pipe
 - Running warm water could also help
 - Do not use an open flame to thaw your pipes, you could damage your pipes
 - Once pipes have thawed, turn the water back on slowly and check for leaks