

Additional News

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Avoid frozen pipes this winter

A frozen pipe can quickly turn a cold snap into a serious headache. Fortunately, a little preparation ahead of time can go a long way toward preventing frozen pipes.

A few simple steps can help keep your pipes flowing when temperatures take a dive.

Before cold weather sets in:

- Check sprinkler or irrigation systems.
- Make sure everything is turned off, disconnect all garden hoses and drain the water. Then drain the water that remains in faucets.
- Know the location of and how to shut off your main water valve.
- Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines. Fix drafty windows and plug drafts around doors. Identify your home's freezing points.
- Protect your pipes. Wrap them with insulation. See the how-to below.

When temperatures stay below freezing:

- Keep your home temperature set no lower than 55°F.
- If pipes run through cabinets, open the cabinet doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.
- Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run.

How to insulate pipes

Materials: Scissors, marker, tape measure, formed pipe insulation, silver tape

1. Measure the diameter of the water pipes. If you are wrapping the hot water pipes, be careful as the pipes may be hot.
2. Match up the size of the pipe with the size of the inside hole of the insulation at the hardware store.
3. When you get home, turn off the water to the pipe.
4. Measure the length of the pipe. Cut the insulation to the correct size and wrap around the pipe. Leave at least 3 feet of unwrapped pipe around the hot water heater to avoid fire hazards.
5. Secure with the silver tape if needed and turn the water back on.

What to do if your pipes freeze

- 1 Shut off** the water immediately.
- 2 Contact** a professional plumber who may be able to thaw the pipes with warm air.
- 3 Be careful turning the water back on.** Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks.