



Preventing Frozen Pipes

Inside

- Open the cabinets in your kitchen and bathrooms to allow heated air to circulate around the water pipes.
- Set your thermostat to no less than 55 degrees, especially when you are gone for the day or away for a long time.
- Let indoor faucets drip very slightly/ We don't want a full water stream as it only takes a small drip to work towards preventing pipes from freezing.

Outside

- Protect faucets, outdoor pipes, and pipes in unheated areas with pipe insulation. If insulation is not an option, consider wrapping them with rags, newspapers, trash bags, plastic foam or bubble wrap.
- Cover vents around your home's foundation.
- Drain water hoses and store them in a garage or shed.
- Drain irrigation water supply lines.
- Make sure you know where your main water shut-off valve is. Most homes have a master valve or a main water shut-off that allows you to turn off the water in an emergency.
- If you suspect you have a leak, turn the water off at that main shut-off valve. If you drain your pipes, you must turn off the power to your water heater if it is electric and/or the gas supply line to the water heater if it runs on gas.

If Your Pipes Do Freeze, Here's What You Need to Do:

- If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, your pipes are likely frozen. This typically happens to pipes along exterior walls or where your water service enters your home.
- Keep the faucet open in order to help melt the ice in the pipe as you are treating the frozen pipe.
- Apply heat to the frozen section of pipes using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer or a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials). You can also wrap pipes with towels soaked in hot water.



- ❑ Never use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame device to thaw pipes.
- ❑ Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen section of pipe or if it is inaccessible, you will need to call a licensed plumber.
- ❑ One frozen pipe often means several frozen pipes - check all faucets to see if you need to defrost additional pipes.