

Preventing Frozen Water Pipes

Frozen pipes aren't just an inconvenience. Homes are ruined and lives disrupted each winter because of water pipes that freeze.



INDOOR TIPS:

- Maintain heat at 55 degrees minimum (including basement).
- Avoid drafts where exposed pipes are located.
- Insulate pipes that are located in cold and drafty places in the home.

OUTDOOR TIPS:

- Disconnect hoses.
- Shut off faucets from inside basement and drain the lines.

IN EXTREME COLD:

- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to reach pipes.
- Some customers choose to run cold water faucets constantly (the size of a pencil lead) – This may help if your service has a history of freezing.

BE PREPARED:

- **Find the master shutoff valve.** It may be near the water heater, washing machine, or where the water service pipe enters the house from the street. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house, this valve will turn the water flow off. Make sure everyone in the family knows where this valve is.
- **Have a plumber's number handy** in case of an unexpected emergency.

FROZEN PIPE?

- NEVER use a torch or flame to thaw a frozen pipe.
- If attempting to thaw the pipe yourself, the best tool is a hair dryer on a low setting. Wave back and forth over pipe.
- When thawing pipes, be mindful that they may already be broken and may start to leak once they begin to thaw. Be ready to run to the shutoff valve.

