



Preventing Frozen Pipes

Tips to Prevent Frozen Water Pipes in Your Home

- Disconnect and drain all garden hoses and install covers on outside faucets. Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Identify the location of the main water valve and the valve on your water heater. (Learning the location of these valves may come in handy during an emergency.)
- During really cold weather, open the cold water tap and let the water run at a trickle to keep the water in the pipes moving. This is especially important if you have pipes in your attic or exterior walls.
- Wrap pipes nearest exterior walls and in crawl spaces with pipe insulation or heating tape.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night.
- Close all windows near water pipes; cover or close open-air vents. Freezing temperatures combined with wind drafts can cause pipes to freeze more frequently.
- Maintain the exterior of your home with caulk, insulation, and paint.
- Know where your main shutoff valve is.



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Use this free guide to inspect your home for trouble before it turn into a problem.

If a Pipe Bursts

- Shut off water at the main valve.
- If the break is in a hot water pipe, the valve on top of the water heater should be closed.
- Have a reputable plumber on call

If a Pipe Freezes

- To thaw a frozen pipe, heat water on the stove, soak towels in the hot water and wrap them around cold sections of the pipes.
- When thawing a pipe, start thawing it nearest to the faucet. Make sure the faucet is turned on so that melted water can drip out.
- You can also thaw some pipes using a good hair dryer.

