

WINTER WEATHER WATER GUIDE

HANDY TIPS TO KEEP YOUR PIPES FROM FREEZING

IT'S ALL ABOUT PREVENTION

Frozen pipes can leave you without water in the worst of weather conditions and be costly to repair. With a few simple steps, you can easily preserve both your budget and your peace of mind.

BEFORE COLD WEATHER SETS IN:



Check sprinkler or irrigation systems. Make sure you've turned everything off and fully drained the system.

Identify your home's freezing points. Check your home for pipes in areas that might be prone to freezing such as crawl spaces, unheated rooms, basements, garages, and near exterior walls.

Protect your pipes. Where pipes are exposed to cold, wrap them with insulation or electrical pipe heater. Even fabric or newspaper can help.

Strengthen your defenses. Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines by closing off crawl spaces, fixing drafty windows, insulating walls and attics, and plugging drafts around doors.

Know how to shut off your water. Locate your main water shut-off valve. You may want to tag or label it so you don't have to search for it in an emergency.

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING:



Keep water working. Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run. (NOTE: The cost of water used in this way will not be reimbursed to the customer.)

Give pipes a helping hand. If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in. Be sure to remove any hazardous items from cabinets for the safety of children and pets.

BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE:



Shut off the water immediately. Don't attempt to thaw pipes without turning off the main shut-off valve.

Thaw pipes with warm air. You can melt the frozen water in the pipe by warming the air around it with a hair dryer or space heater. Be sure not to leave space heaters unattended and avoid the use of kerosene heaters or open flames.

Be careful turning water back on. Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks or leaks that might have been caused by freezing.