

How to Protect Water Pipes from Freezing

Did You Know?

When water freezes, it expands about 9%. So, if the temperature of your pipes drops below 32 degrees, even for a short period, you're more likely to have a pipe fracture or worse.

Close Crawl Spaces and Vents

Close crawl space vents and stuff insulation over the openings. Even a tiny hole can let in a lot of cold.

Protect outside pipes and faucets

Shut off all outside water.

Disconnect garden hoses and if the outside water has been shut off, turn on the faucets to drain the water. Leaving the faucets in the open position, wrap or cover all outside faucets and hose bibs.

Winterize Irrigation Systems

Turn off and drain automatic sprinkler systems and backflow assembly devices. Wrap backflow devices with insulating material.

Open the cupboard doors beneath your sinks

Opening the cupboard doors beneath your sinks will allow warm air to circulate around the pipes and will help keep them from freezing.

Allow water to trickle from faucets

In extreme or long-term cold spell, allow the water to trickle from your inside faucets to prevent freezing.

Emergency Shut-Off Valve

Teach everyone in your home where your emergency water shut-off valve is and how to use it.

Never turn off the heat when you leave home

During the winter set the temperature to at least 55-60 degrees F.

Leaving for the winter?

If you plan to be gone for an extended amount of time this winter call your water provider and have them shut off and lock your water meter.

Have emergency telephone numbers handy

Keep the number to your local water provider and your plumber posted in a location where everyone can see it in case of an emergency.

For more information see the full article in our 2025 Winter E-Newsletter.