

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. And cost a lot to repair. But with a few simple steps, you can easily preserve both your budget and your peace of mind.

AMERICAN WATER

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 exterior walls.



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.



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.



Protect your pipes

Where pipes are exposed to cold, wrap them with insulation or electrical pipe heater (even fabric or newspaper can help).

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING:



Keep water working

Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run.



Give pipes a helping hand

If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.

BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE:



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.



Shut off the water immediately

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



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.