

STEPS TO PREVENT FROZEN PIPES



BEFORE WINTER



CHECK SUSCEPTIBLE AREAS

Check your home for areas where water pipes are located in unheated or poorly insulated areas. Be sure to check your basement, attic, crawl space, garage and within cabinets containing plumbing. Hot and cold water pipes should both be insulated.

INSULATE EXPOSED PIPES

Products such as pipe sleeves or UL-listed heat tape or heat cable can help insulate or provide heat to exposed water pipes.

REMEMBER, THE MORE INSULATION YOU USE, THE BETTER PROTECTED YOUR PIPES - AND YOUR CHAPTER FACILITY - WILL BE.

IMPORTANCE OF INSULATION NO MATTER YOUR LOCATION

Pipe insulation in your home's crawl spaces and attic helps even if you live in a climate where freezing is uncommon. Exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing.

CLOSE AND CLEAR VALVES

Close inside valves supplying water to outdoor faucets and hookups. Before winter hits, disconnect garden hoses and, if possible, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.

CHECK FOR LEAKS

Locate and thoroughly seal leaks that allow cold air inside. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes, and use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out.

DURING WINTER

OPEN OUTDOOR FAUCETS

Open outdoor faucets to allow residual water to drain; be sure to keep them open during the cold weather months, while the water supply is turned off.

LET WATER DRIP

For pipes that are at risk of freezing (both hot and cold water pipes), let water drip from faucets. A trickle of hot and cold water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing. Let warm water drip overnight when temperatures are cold, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall.

THINK ABOUT DOORS

Open the doors on cabinets where plumbing is located. This can help allow warmer air to circulate around the pipes.

If you have a garage, keep garage doors closed to help protect any pipes in the garage.

ADJUST THE FURNACE

Keeping your thermostat set at the same temperature during both day and night also reduces the risk of frozen pipes. During extreme cold, this also helps reduce the strain on the furnace. Make sure the heat is set at a minimum of 55 degrees.

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