

Preparing for the Upcoming Freezing Weather

INSIDE

- Open cabinet doors for the sinks- Kitchen and bathrooms to allow heated air to circulate around the water pipes.
- Set the thermostat at a minimum of 55 degrees, especially when gone for the day or away a long period of time. 68 degrees is ideal for energy conservation.
- Let indoor faucets drip, but do not run a heavy stream of water. It only takes a small drip.

OUTSIDE

- Protect faucets, outdoor pipes, and pipes in unheated areas with pipe insulation. In a pinch. Wrap them with rags, newspapers, trash bags, plastic foam or even bubble wrap can add needed protection.
- Cover any vents around home's foundation.
- Drain water hoses and store them in the garage/shed.
- Protect outdoor electrical pumps.
- Make sure to know where your main water shut-off valve is.
- If you suspect a leak, turn the water off at the main shut-off valve.
- If pipes are drained, don't forget to turn off the power to the water heater if it is electric. If it is gas water heater, turn off the gas supply line to the water heater.

Pressure in Pipes

- Built-up pressure in pipes during winter months can cause a pipe to burst or fracture at its weakest link.
- When water freezes it expands and pushes against all the water between it and home.
- Allow the faucet to drip during extended freezing temps can help mitigate any potential trouble that may possibly be experienced from pipes.

How to Thaw Frozen Pipes

- When turning on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, then suspect a frozen pipe. Likely suspects- pipes against exterior walls where water enters the home through the foundation.
- Keep the faucet open when treating the frozen pipe. The frozen pipe begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area.
- Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in pipe.
- Apply heat to section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, electric hair dryer, portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials. Pipes can be wrapped with towels soaked in hot water.
- **DO NOT** use a blowtorch, kerosene, propane heater charcoal stove or any other open flame device.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If a frozen pipe can't be located, is not accessible, or can't thaw pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets inside and outside the home to make sure no additional pipe are frozen.

Reduce Energy Saving Tips

- Cold weather can affect energy service and result in increased bills.
- Set Thermostat to 68 degrees.
- Keep doors and windows closed to keep warm air from escaping home.
- Wear warm, comfortable clothing to help stay warm indoors instead of adjusting thermostat.
- Unplug devices not being used.
- Run ceiling fans in reverse to help bring down warm air near the ceiling.
- Allow faucets to drip during extended below freezing temps.

After Temperature has returned to above freezing

- Turn off all faucets.
- Check property for possible frozen/burst pipes.
- If any frozen or burst pipes turn off water at meter and repair as soon as possible.
- If you see leaks on water side of meters please report them to water company.