



Winter's coming **PREPARE YOUR PIPES**

BEFORE THE COLD SETS IN



Know how to shut off your water: Locate your main water shut-off valve. In many homes, it is located near the water meter or close to where the water pipe enters the home. Hang the I.D. tag on the valve so you can find it quickly in an emergency.



Check sprinkler or irrigation systems: Make sure everything is turned off and fully drained.



Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines: Check for pipes in areas that might be prone to freezing, such as crawl spaces, unheated rooms, basements, garages, and exterior walls. Fix drafty windows, insulate walls around pipes and plug drafts around doors.



Protect your pipes: Where pipes are exposed to cold, wrap them with insulation or heat tape (even fabric or newspaper can help).

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING



Give pipes a helping hand: If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.



Keep water moving through the pipes: Allow a small trickle of water to run. The cost of the extra water is typically lower than the cost to repair a broken pipe.

IF YOUR PIPES FREEZE



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

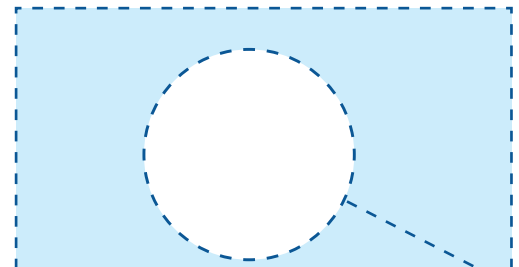


Thaw a frozen pipe by warming the air around it: Do not leave space heaters unattended and avoid using kerosene heaters or open flames.



Carefully turn the water back on: Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks or leaks.

HANG THIS TAG ON YOUR MAIN SHUT-OFF VALVE



WATER SHUT-OFF VALVE

You may want to test the valve to be sure it works properly. To test it, find your main shut-off valve and slowly close it.

- **Ball valve:** Generally, it only requires a quarter turn to close ball valves so that the handle is perpendicular to the water line. In the image below, the valve is open.
- **Gate valve:** Gate valves are generally closed by turning the handle clockwise. If the valve does not turn easily, do not force it and consider having the valve repaired so that it turns easily.

Once the shut-off valve is completely closed: Check sinks and other fixtures to be sure you have found the main valve and that it is working properly. To turn water back on, slowly turn the valve until fully reopened.

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