



WATER SHUT-OFF VALVE

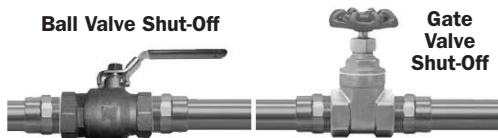
Hang this tag on your main water shut-off valve

In the event of an emergency, it might be necessary to turn off the main water valve in your home. It's important that everyone knows where the main water shut-off valve is located. In many homes, it is located near the water meter. If the water meter is not inside, however, the shut off valve is typically located on the water pipe close to where it enters your home or business; possibly in the basement, in a utility closet or crawl space.

PLEASE NOTE: You may want to test the valve to ensure that it is working properly. To test it, find your main shut off valve and close it.

- **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 does turn easily.
- **Ball valve:** Generally, closing a ball valve only requires a quarter turn, so that the handle is perpendicular to the water line. In the image below, the valve is open.

Once the main shut-off valve is completely shut off, check sinks and other fixtures to be sure you have found the main valve and that it is working properly. When reopening the valve to turn the water back on, be sure to open it slowly until fully opened.



CUT HERE



It's time to prepare your home for winter


NEW JERSEY
AMERICAN WATER

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.

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WINTER

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. Hang the I.D. tag located on the back of this insert on the valve, so you can find it quickly 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 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 working

Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run. The cost of the extra water is typically lower than the cost of repairing a broken pipe.

BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE:



Shut off the water immediately

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



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.



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.