



Why Pipes Freezing is a problem

Water has a unique property in that it expands as it freezes. This expansion puts tremendous pressure on whatever is containing it, including meter or plastic pipes. No matter the strength of the container, expanding water can cause pipes to break.

Pipes that freeze most frequently are:

- Pipes that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, hydrants, swimming pool supply lines, and water irrigation lines.
- Water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets.
- Pipe that run against exterior walls that have little to no insulation.

Before the Cold Weather Sets In:

- Check sprinkler or irrigation systems make sure everything is turned off or drained. Remove, drain, and store hoses used outside.
- Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines. Check around the home for other area where water supply lines are located in unheated areas. Identify your home's freezing points. Both hot and cold water pipes should be insulated.
- Consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes like "pipe sleeve" or "heat tape".
- Know how to shut off your water and the main supply.

When Temperatures Stay Below Freezing:

- Open Kitchen and Bathroom Cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing & let water drip form the faucet. Running water through the pipe, even a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature & garage doors closed.
- Add space heater to the room where pipes might be at risk & open interior doors.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°.

When Pipes Freeze:

- Shut off the water.
- Thaw pipes with warm air.
- Be careful when turning water back on. As you treat the frozen pip and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe.