



Cold Weather is Coming! Be Prepared !

A frozen water pipe is not only inconvenient, but it can be costly both to repair and for the large amount of water that can be lost. Here are a few tips to help keep your water flowing freely during the winter months ahead!

1) Check your outside faucets:

- Disconnect hoses from outside faucets.
- Shut off and drain all outside faucets.
- If you don't have a separate shut-off for your outside faucets, protect them with insulated hose covers. Hose covers can be found at any hardware store.
- Make sure yard hydrants are completely off. You can listen and feel for water leaking by an underground drain by holding the tip of a screwdriver to the riser pipe and placing your ear on the handle. If you hear a hissing noise through the screwdriver, consider shutting off the yard hydrant at its source point.

2) Winterize irrigation systems:

- Irrigation systems should be winterized in the fall, and backflow prevention assemblies should have shut off valves closed.
- You may need to contact a landscaping firm to assist you with winterizing your irrigation system.

3) Eliminate drafts:

- Close all windows and doors near water pipes, and make sure the weather seals are intact.
- Where pipes enter the house, be sure the opening is sealed with caulking.
- Close any foundation or crawlspace vents that are not needed.
- Seal any cracks in your basement, crawlspace and other outside walls.

4) Insulate pipes:

- Wrap pipes in unheated areas with weatherproof insulation or heat tape type products.

5) In prolonged below-freezing weather:

- Consider opening cabinets under sinks to allow heated air to circulate near your pipes.
- Consider allowing an indoor faucet to drip slowly, especially if its in an area that is unheated. *Use this method as a last resort though, as this may increase your water bill.*
- If your laundry machine is in the garage, consider turning off the water at the faucet when it is not in use.

