

WINTER WEATHER WATER TIPS

The cold winter weather is here – and if you don't prepare, that can mean frozen pipes. That's because your pipes can burst when standing water freezes and expands. Try these steps to protect your home in the winter.



AVOIDING FROZEN PIPES

- First, locate the valves inside your house that control the water supply to your outside faucets. Make sure these inside valves are completely turned off.
- Now, go outside and open your outside faucets, letting any standing water drain out. Keep these outside faucets open all winter so that any water remaining in your pipes can expand without causing pipes to break.
- Then, caulk around these outside faucets and anywhere water pipes enter your home.
- Use insulation wrap or tubular pipe covers/sleeves to insulate any unheated areas of your home, such as crawl spaces, basements or attics. These coverings help protect pipes from the cold.

OUTDOOR

- Remove, drain and store garden hoses.
- Close all foundation vents and fill vent openings with something temporary, such as wood or Styrofoam blocks, which can be removed easily in the spring.

INDOOR

- If you have pipes that are exposed to extremely cold weather, let cold water drip continuously from the faucets. The constant flow of water will help keep the pipe from freezing.
- When temperatures are below freezing, open cabinet doors in the kitchen and bathrooms. This allows heat to get to these pipes.
- Find your main water shut-off valve inside your house and label it. If a pipe freezes or bursts, you can limit damage and control your water loss by knowing how to turn off your water quickly.

WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

- If you go away for an extended period of time contact DWSD to turn off your water.
- Keep the thermostat set at 55 degrees or above to help keep pipes from freezing, especially those near outside walls.
- If you decide to keep the water on while you're away, shut off the water to washing machines and dishwashers to avoid leaks or broken hoses.
- While you're away, have a friend or family member check for broken pipes periodically, especially during lengthy periods of cold weather. Make sure they know how to turn off the shut-off valve in case of an emergency.



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