



HOW TO PROTECT YOUR PIPES BEFORE

FREEZING WEATHER ARRIVES

ACTIONS FOR OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- ☐ **Disconnect and drain hoses:** Disconnect all hoses from outdoor spigots and drain them completely. Store them in a shed or garage.
- ☐ **Insulate outdoor faucets:** Put an insulated cover over every outdoor spigot. These are inexpensive and can be found at any hardware store.
- ☐ **Winterize sprinkler systems:** Follow the manufacturer's instructions for draining and shutting down your lawn irrigation system to prevent pipes from freezing and cracking underground.
- ☐ **Seal leaks:** Use caulk or expanding foam to seal any gaps and cracks in your home's foundation or exterior walls, especially where pipes enter the house.
- ☐ **Insulate exposed pipes:** Wrap exposed pipes in unheated areas like crawl spaces, attics, and garages with foam pipe sleeves, heat tape, or insulating material.
- ☐ **Turn off outdoor facet from inside:** if, applicable.

ACTIONS FOR INSIDE YOUR HOME

- ☐ **Insulate exposed pipes:** Wrap any pipes located in unheated areas, such as basements, attics, or garages, with foam insulation sleeves or heat tape. This includes hot water pipes.
- ☐ **Open cabinet doors:** For sinks located on exterior walls, open the cabinet doors on extremely cold nights. This allows warmer air from the room to circulate around the plumbing.
- ☐ **Keep garage doors shut:** If there are water pipes in your garage, keep the garage door closed to protect them from freezing temperatures.
- ☐ **Keep your home heated:** If you are away during cold weather, set your thermostat to no lower than 55°F to ensure your home stays warm enough to prevent freezing.
- ☐ **Locate the main water shut-off valve:** Ensure everyone in your household knows how to find and use the main shut-off valve. If a pipe bursts, you can limit the damage by turning off the water supply immediately.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS IF LEAVING FOR WINTER MONTHS

- ☐ Turn off water inside of home at the meter or contact Village Hall to request your water to be turned off at the B-Box. (B-Box Reconnection Fee, applicable)
- ☐ Purchase a frost alarm for your home to notify you if your house furnace goes out. This prevents rest of pipes from freezing and cracking.

IF YOUR PIPES FREEZE

- ☐ **Keep the faucet open:** As you thaw the frozen pipe, a flowing faucet will help melt the ice blockage.
- ☐ **Apply heat safely:** Use an electric heating pad, hair dryer, or towels soaked in hot water to thaw the pipe. Never use a blowtorch or open flame, as this is a serious fire hazard.
- ☐ **Call a professional:** If you cannot locate the frozen section or suspect a pipe has burst, shut off the main water valve and call a licensed plumber.