



## Protect Your Pipes During **Freezing** Temperatures

It is very important to protect your pipes from freezing when the temperatures dip near zero. Freezing can lead to pipes bursting or cracking.

Some pipes are more prone to freezing than others because of their location in the home:

- \* Pipes located in exterior walls (usually bathrooms and kitchen sinks)
- \* Any plumbing located on the exterior of your home
- \* Exposed pipes, especially those in unheated areas (attics, crawl spaces, garage) (This includes your water heater)

### **Suggestions**

- \* Shut your irrigation systems off at the main valve.
- \* Let the cold-water drip from any faucet served by exposed pipes or those in exterior walls. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing. (Intentionally having a leaky faucet seems counterintuitive but can be a smart strategy when temperatures fall below freezing. Barely turning on your faucets along exterior walls helps to alleviate pressure from building up between the faucet and an ice blockage, which can prevent pipes from bursting.
- \* Open all cabinet doors on exterior walls to allow your pipes to warm up from your home's heating system.
- \* Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature day and night.
- \* Disconnect garden hoses and install insulation or faucet insulators on outside spigots.
- \* Install foam pipe insulation from your local hardware store over pipes at risk of freezing.

### **What happens if my pipes freeze?**

Once temperatures rise, frozen pipes generally thaw, and water will flow again. In some cases, however, the expansion of the ice causes the pipe to crack or burst. After a freeze, it is important to inspect pipes for damage.

### **Suggestions**

- \* Know how to shut off the water main to your home. (If you are able stop the flow of water immediately from the ruptured pipe, you will reduce the damage drastically.)
- \* Use warm towels to wrap around a pipe that may be frozen
- \* **Call a Professional for assistance.**
- \* **NEVER**, ever, try to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch.
- \* Remember that where there is standing water there is serious potential for **ELECTRIC SHOCK** so be very cautious with any electrical equipment.