

# Prevent Frozen Pipes Disasters

It's a bitter cold morning. You turn on your bathroom faucet, but only a trickle of water dribbles out. It's a classic sign of a frozen water pipe.



## Prevention

- *Open Kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors*  
This allows your home's warm air to circulate around the pipes
- *Keep your thermostat at 55° or higher*  
Even better, don't lower your thermostat at night
- *Let lukewarm water drip*  
from the faucet farthest from your water meter or farthest from pipes that have been frozen in the past
- *Close or seal cold air openings*  
such as indoor valves that supply outdoor hoses
- *Insulate Pipes*  
Install a pipe sleeve or UL-listed pipe-heating cable, in a pinch wrap pipes in a ¼ inch or thicker layer of newspaper and a layer of plastic

## Thaw Frozen Pipes

Open faucets and remove pipe insulation. Then, apply heat to the frozen area nearest the faucet. If using a hair dryer or electric heating pad for this, do NOT stand in water. Another option: wrap the pipe with hot water soaked towels.

## If a pipe bursts

Shut off your home's main water valve. Prepare in advance-label the valve and make sure all household members can find it.



## Warning: Never use open flames to thaw pipes

An explosion or fire may occur. In one Massachusetts home, a man died in a fire likely due to thawing a pipe with a torch. A smoldering fire burned undetected inside a basement wall until it was too late.



Frozen Pipe



Burst Pipe

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