

Avoid frozen pipes this winter



We receive many calls during the wintertime for frozen pipes, frozen and leaking water meters, and flooding homes from broken pipes. Talk about frustration – not to mention expense! Fortunately, we've come up with nine steps you can take to safeguard your home or business.

If your home has had frozen pipes before, ask your plumber what you can do to prevent them in the future. Some steps that may help when temperatures remain below freezing for a day or more include:

- 💧 Leaving a faucet dripping slightly to circulate water so it won't freeze in your pipes;
- 💧 Opening cabinet doors below sinks, located against outside walls, to allow warm air to circulate.
- 💧 Insulating pipes, both inside and outside the home;
- 💧 Inspecting your water meter and reporting cracked or leaking meters to the water department;
- 💧 Making sure your gas and electricity are in working order to keep pipes warm;
- 💧 Draining outdoor lines and disconnecting garden hoses;
- 💧 Locating the water shut-off valve and learning how to turn it off;
- 💧 Educating your family so they know how to shut off the water and who to call in an emergency; and
- 💧 Asking a friend or relative to check on your home or business while you are on vacation.

Even the best preventative measures sometimes fail, so don't panic. Determine the problem and what you can do to reduce the damage.

If you cannot shut the water off in your home, please call the Department of Public Works at (708) 535-4090 from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. weekdays. After 3:30 p.m. or on weekends/holidays you should call the Police Department non-emergency phone number at (708) 687-1376 and they will contact the Public Works supervisor on call.