



## BEFORE THE COLD HITS

— Make sure the smallest hole or crack in the exterior siding is insulated & covered around any water pipes that are on the inside of exterior walls.

— REMEMBER! Frozen pipes aren't just an inconvenience, families have their homes ruined and their lives disrupted each winter all because of water pipes that freeze.

## ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Check and replace washing machine hoses annually.
- Water heaters, safety valves and washing machines that are located above the first floor or in a finished basement should have drain pans.
- Know where your water meter and shut-off valves are located. (Make sure the valves work by turning them on and off at least a couple times a year).



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**Simple steps for the homeowner to take to help prevent broken pipes due to freezing & resulting water damage to your home.**

### **On an extremely cold day!**

- Maintain higher than normal temperatures (3–4 degrees).
- Turn on your faucets and let the water trickle constantly.
- Open cabinet doors under the sinks. This will allow the heat to warm the pipes.
- Insulate pipes-Insulation goes a long way toward preventing freeze-ups.
- Your exterior faucets used for your garden hoses should be shut off from inside your basement and left open (even if you have freeze-proof sill cocks).



**If the house has forced hot water heat and may be unoccupied at times during the winter months...**

- Set the thermostat no lower than 60 degrees. Install a low heat alarm.
- Shut off the water at the water meter.
- Have a plumber install a low water cut off switch on forced hot water boiler.
- Heat tape the water meter and water service, unless the water meter is plastic, If plastic, heat the meter and service area.
- Leave all faucets open, fill heating system with anti-freeze.
- If heated by oil install a low oil alarm.
- Have the house checked once a week.

**If your house is not occupied during the winter months...**

- Have the water service shut off in the street and remove the meter.
- Drain all domestic water lines, leave faucets and drain valves open.
- Drain all heating lines, leave all drain valves open.
- Drain boilers and hot water heaters, and leave drain valves open.
- Drain plumbing fixtures, add antifreeze to all traps.
- Shut off gas service at meter.
- Have house checked weekly.