

Homeowners Guide to Winterizing Your Pipes

Winter can bring its fair share of below-freezing weather, which can come unexpectedly for those living in warmer states. It's crucial for homeowners to know what to do to protect their homes before an oncoming freeze. Protecting your pipes to prepare for a hard freeze can help homeowners avoid expensive plumbing and home repairs following treacherous weather. Read Below our 8 tips for keeping your home safe this winter!

1. Let Cold Water drip from faucets:

Keeping the water in your pipes moving will help it keep from freezing, so run a small, steady stream of water from your faucets when freezing temperatures hit.

3. Turn on the heater:

Inside your home to keep pipes from getting too cold. Keeping warm air in the home can help stop pipes from getting cold enough to burst.

5. Winterize your sprinkler system:

It's not just the pipes inside your home that are at risk during a freeze! Make sure your sprinkler system is winterized and consider adding an extra layer of protection for your backflow preventer.

7. Shut off the main water valve and drain water lines:

Before shutting off the main water valve, fill your bathtub so you have water available to flush toilets. The incoming water line can typically be found in the foundation near the front side of your house. Once shut off, open all your taps to drain water lines. Closed taps can hold water inside of pipes, which need to be cleared in freezing temperatures. Try to keep all valves and taps open throughout the entirety of the freezing weather. Don't forget to flush toilets and drain faucets until they're empty.

2. Open Cabinet Doors:

that plumbing lives behind, including kitchen and bathroom sinks. This allows more circulation of heat from the home to access the pipes and keep them from bursting.

4. Insulate Pipes:

with insulation sleeves, wrap with heat tape, or use slip-on foam pipe insulation. Do not leave any gaps between the method of insulation! Cold air could still penetrate the pipes through any spots left uncovered.

6. Inspect the Exterior:

your home for any cracks and seal any leaks. Prevent the cold outdoors from penetrating your home by sealing any leaks in windows, chimneys, and door frames. Keep your garage closed to preserve more heat. Clear gutters of debris to prevent a build up of damaging ice. Make sure to also disconnect and drain outdoor hoses before the temperature drops.

8. Consider your hot water heater:

If you're concerned about your hot water heater, our plumber recommends a hot water heater blanket or insulation, which you can buy at your local hardware store.