Fairfax Water

Winter Water Tips

PREVENT FROZEN PIPES

Frozen pipes can leave you without water in the worst of weather – and cost a lot to repair. But with a few simple steps, you can easily preserve your budget and your peace of mind.

BEFORE THE COLD WEATHER SETS IN



Make sure sprinkler or irrigation systems are turned off and drained.



Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines. Plug and fix drafty windows and doors.



Know how to shut off your water at the main line valve.



Protect your pipes in uninsulated spaces. Wrap them with insulation.

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING



If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow through.



Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of cold tap water to run.

BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE



Shut off the water immediately.



Use warm air to thaw frozen pipes, but be careful—don't stand in water while using anything electric. Never use a flame or torch to thaw a pipe.



Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on. Check pipes and joints for any cracks.

REPORT WATER MAIN BREAKS

If you see or suspect a main break, please contact Fairfax Water right away:

- Fill out the form: fairfaxwater.org/mainbreak
- Call during business hours: 703-698-5800, TTY 711
- Call on nights and weekends: 703-698-5613, TTY 711