



GET READY FOR FREEZING TEMPERATURES AND SNOWFALL



Watch weather forecasts for potential of freezing temperatures and snow. These guidelines can help you get prepared before the freeze and snow.

Personal Preparedness

- Use the Take Winter By Storm Checklist to prepare an emergency kit, including a radio, flashlight, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, emergency contact information, water, and non-perishable food. You can find a detailed list at TakeWinterByStorm.org.
- Keep cold weather clothing and extra blankets handy at home, work and in your vehicle to use in an emergency to minimize heat loss.
- Keep portable heaters away from furniture, draperies and other flammable materials.

Cold/Freezing Weather Home Maintenance

Before the cold hits...

- Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic. These exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. Remember - the more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be.
- Heat tape or thermostatically-controlled heat cables can be used to wrap pipes. Be sure to use products approved by an independent testing organization, such as Underwriters Laboratories Inc., and only for the intended use (exterior or interior). Closely follow all manufacturers' installation and operation instructions.
- Seal leaks that allow cold air inside near where pipes are located. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes. Use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out and the heat in. With severe cold, even a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.
- Wrap outdoor pipes and faucets to keep them from freezing.
- Disconnect garden hoses and, if practical, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.

When the mercury drops...

- A trickle of hot and cold water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing. Let warm water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall.
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.
- Clear your sidewalks of snow and ice with salt, deicer and/or snow shoveling to avoid injuries on your property.
- Keep snow build-up off of surfaces that could collapse.

Before you leave your home for travel...

- Set the thermostat in your house no lower than 55°F (12°C).
- Ask a friend or neighbor to check your house daily to make sure it's warm enough to prevent freezing.
- Shut off and drain the water system. Be aware that if you have a fire protection sprinkler system in your house, it will be deactivated when you shut off the water.

When freezing temperatures and snow strike, first ensure your own safety. Then check in with family, friends, and neighbors to make sure they are OK.