Preventing Frozen Water Pipes

Tips from Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC)



INDOORTIPS:

- Maintain heat at 55 degrees
 minimum (including in basement)
- Avoid drafts where water meter and exposed pipe are located
- Insulate pipes that are located in cold and drafty places in the home

OUTDOOR TIPS:

- Disconnect hoses
- Shut off faucets from inside
 basement and drain the faucets

IN EXTREME COLD:

- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to reach pipes
- Some customers choose to run cold water faucets constantly (the size of a pencil lead) - This may help if your service has a history of freezing

BE PREPARED:

- * Find the master shutoff valve... It may be near the water heater, washing machine, or where the water service pipe enters the house from the street. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house, this valve will turn the water flow off. Make sure everyone in the family knows where this valve is.
- Have a plumber's number handy... in case of an unexpected emergency.

FROZEN PIPE?

- NEVER use a torch or flame to try to thaw a frozen pipe.
- * If attempting to thaw the pipe yourself, the best tool is a hair dryer on a low setting: wave back and forth over pipe.
- When thawing pipes be mindful that they may already be broken and may start to leak once they begin to thaw. Be ready to run to the shutoff valve.
- * SWSC customers can contact the Commission at (413) 310-3501 anytime, 24/7.

Frozen pipes aren't just an inconvenience. Families have their homes ruined and their lives disrupted each winter because of water pipes that freeze.

Emergency: 413-310-3501

Business Office: 413-452-1393

Public Info: 413-452-1302

