



Protect Your Water Pipes From Freezing

Paul Cote, Assistant Distribution Manager

Many water meters and pipes are in basements, crawl spaces, and other unheated areas, where cold winter temperatures could cause them to freeze. Here are a few tips to help you avoid the inconvenience and cost of frozen plumbing.

It should first be noted that you, the customer, are responsible for protecting the water meter and piping within your property from freezing

- If the water meter freezes and breaks because you failed to take steps to protect it, the Water District will replace the meter and bill you for the cost.
- If your service line or piping freezes or breaks, it is your responsibility to have repairs made.

Here are some tips and suggestions to prevent freezing:

- Eliminate drafts in crawl spaces.
- Repair broken and cracked windows and doors.
- Tightly close exterior windows and doors.
- Insulate exterior walls.
- Be sure to keep fuel levels adequate.
- Don't turn your heat down too low if there is a danger of a deep freeze.
- Check where your meter and pipes are installed, keeping in mind that it is colder near floors and foundation walls.
- Ask your local plumbing supplier about materials to insulate pipes and meters. If your meter is installed in a potentially cold area, take extra care to ensure the meter is insulated.
- If pipes or the meter are in a closed cabinet against an outside wall, insulate the wall and open the cabinet to allow warmer air to reach them.
- Disconnect outside water hoses. Water left in the hose can freeze and damage the pipe going into your house.
- If you are not going to be home for several days during cold weather, arrange to have someone visit periodically and turn on a faucet to ensure that the water is still flowing.

If your service line, piping or meter freezes:

- Open a faucet near the frozen point to get water flowing and to release excess pressure.
- Direct a hair dryer or heat lamp at the frozen section of pipe.
- NEVER thaw a frozen pipe or meter with an open flame. This is not only a fire hazard, but could also cause a steam explosion.
- If you are unable to thaw the frozen pipes, consult a licensed plumber.

We hope you find these cold weather tips helpful in avoiding the inconvenience and expense of freeze-ups.