



## Preparing Your Homes Water Pipes For Winter Weather

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While it is still several months until we start to experience winter's cold weather, we would like to remind everyone to start thinking of what you as a homeowner can do to protect your pipes, prevent potential damage to your home and possibly avoid a call to your plumber. Here are a couple of actions you can take to protect your water pipes:

- Disconnect and drain any garden hoses from the outside faucets around your property. Turn off supply valves to those faucets and open outside faucet if practical.
- Drain swimming pools and irrigation systems as directed by installer or manufacturer's directions.
- Check all unheated areas including crawl spaces, basements, garages, attics, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold lines should be insulated. This is especially necessary if these cabinets are against an exterior wall. Pipe insulation is available at most hardware and home supply stores in this area. Underwriter Laboratories (UL) products such as heat tapes are available for purchase, but you need to follow their instructions for installation.

During extreme cold spells we suggest that you:

- Open cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate. Please secure any chemicals or products so they are out of reach of small children and pets.
- Let the cold water drip if you have an exposed pipe.
- Set thermostat no lower than 55 degrees if you are going to be out of town during extremely cold weather.

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