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Preventing Frozen Pipes

How to insulate pipes

Materials: Scissors, marker, tape measure, formed pipe insulation, silver tape

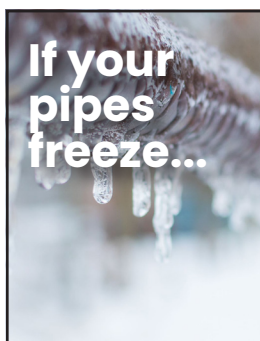
1. Measure the diameter of the water pipes. If you are only wrapping the hot water pipes, locate them and measure from there. Be careful as the pipes may be hot.
2. Match up the size of the pipe with the size of the inside hole of the insulation at the hardware store.
3. When you get home, turn off the water to the pipe. You may be able to do this at the water heater or at the backflow located outside.
4. Measure the length of the pipe. Cut the insulation to the correct size and wrap around the pipe. Leave at least 3 feet of unwrapped pipe around the hot water heater to avoid fire hazards.
5. Secure with the silver tape if needed and turn the water back on.

Indoors

- Keep your home temperature set no lower than 55°F.
- Protect your pipes. Wrap them with insulation.
- If pipes run through cabinets, open the cabinet doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.
- Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run.
- Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines. Fix drafty windows and plug drafts around doors. Identify your home's freezing points.

Outdoors

- Check sprinkler or irrigation systems.
- Make sure everything is turned off and drained in hoses. Then drain the water that remains in faucets.
- Know the location of and how to shut off your main water valve.
- Disconnect all garden hoses and drain the water that remains in faucets.



If your pipes freeze...



Shut off the water immediately.



Thaw pipes with warm air, using a hair dryer or space heater. **Do not** leave space heaters unattended and do not use kerosene heaters or open flames.



Be careful turning the water back on. Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks.