

## PROTECT YOUR PIPES – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Water expands when it freezes, which places tremendous pressure on your plumbing system; this may cause them to break. There are simple steps to prevent frozen pipes in your home or business.

### How do I shut off water flow to my home?

First, find your main water shut-off valve. Closing this valve will stop the flow of water into your home after a pipe break.. The main water shut-off valve is typically located near the water meter where the water service line enters the building. To shut off individual fixtures, check for valves under sinks and behind toilets.

### What do I do about outdoor water sources?

Before temperatures drop, remove, drain, and store outside garden hoses. Close the valves inside that control the water supply to the outside hose attachment (known as the “bib”). Open the outside hose bib to allow any remaining water to drain.

### What if some areas of my home are unheated?

You can insulate pipes, faucets, and water meters in cold areas of your home. You can also open cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate around pipes.

### What should I do if I’m leaving home during the winter?

Consider closing your main water shut-off valve and draining the system by opening all faucets and flushing the toilets. You can also contact a registered plumber for additional winterization techniques.

### How do I prevent freezing from day-to-day?

Check frequently to make sure water is not freezing by opening and turning on taps. If you pipes have a tendency to freeze, consider allowing your water to drip slightly.

**Any customer who needs additional information should call:  
PWSA Emergency Dispatch 24/7 at 412.255.2423**