

Preventing and Thawing Frozen Pipes

Tips to Prevent Frozen Water Pipes in Your Home

• Disconnect and drain all garden hoses and install covers on outside faucets. Don’t forget the

water supply to an evaporative cooler.

• Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.

• Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the

plumbing.

• Identify the location of the main water valve and the valve on your water heater.

(Learning the location of these valves may come in handy during an emergency.)

• Wrap pipes nearest exterior walls and in crawl spaces with pipe insulation or heating

tape. This will prevent freezing, especially for interior pipes that run along outside walls.

• Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By

temporarily suspending the use of lower night temperatures, you may incur a higher

heating bill, but you can prevent a much costlier repair job if pipes freeze and burst.

• Close all windows near water pipes; cover or close open-air vents. Freezing temperatures

combined with wind drafts can cause pipes to freeze more frequently.

• During really cold weather, open the cold water tap and let the water run at a trickle to

keep the water in the pipes moving.

Before You Go Away

• Set the thermostat in your house no lower than 55 degrees F (12 degrees C).

• Ask a friend or neighbor to check your house daily to make sure it’s warm enough to

prevent freezing.

• Please note: ONLY if you have an isolation valve on your property, you can shut it off and drain the water system. Be aware that if you have a fire protection sprinkler system in your house, it will be deactivated when you shut off the water.

If a Pipe Freezes

• If a faucet or pipe inside your house freezes, you can thaw it using a good hair dryer.

(For safety purposes, avoid operating a hair dryer around standing water.)

• To thaw a frozen pipe, heat water on the stove, soak towels in the hot water and wrap

them around cold sections of the pipes.

• When thawing a pipe, start thawing it nearest to the faucet. Make sure the faucet is

turned on so that melted water can drip out.

• Never try to thaw frozen pipes with torches or other means of extreme heat or flame.

• If heated too quickly, waterlines can explode and cause serious injury

If a Pipe Bursts

• Contact Palmdale Water District at 661-947-4111 or after hours at 661-947-4114 to have a

technician shut off the main valve. (Please do not attempt to do this on your own.)

• Call a plumber. Keep an emergency number nearby for quick access.

• All pipes and plumbing on the house side of the meter are the customer’s responsibility.