PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT
A CENTURY OF SERVICE

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.