

6 Tips to Keep Water Pipes From Freezing

Homes that are more vulnerable to frozen pipes are those in which the pipes may not be properly insulated against **frigid temperatures and wind chill**. Pipes located in unprotected areas, or against exterior walls, are also at risk of freezing. Here are some tips that may help keep your water lines flowing.

Tip #1: Keep the Heat On

If leaving for extended periods of time, be sure the heat is kept on in. It does not have to be kept as high as you normally would keep it if you were actually in the home, but keeping it set above 10 C (50 F) is a good idea during winter months.

Tip #2: Allow the Tap to DRIP

If your water line is along an exterior wall, you can open the faucet just a bit so the tap drips slightly. If a pipe freezes, it is the pressure that is created between the blockage and the faucet that will cause the pipe to burst. Allowing the faucet drip will prevent this pressure from building up- thus keep the pipe from bursting.

Tip #3: Keep Interior Doors Open

If pipes are located in cabinets, it is a good idea to keep these cabinet doors slightly ajar, so that the heat from the rest of the house can circulate, keeping pipes warm as well. Keep interior doors open allowing heat to flow throughout the home.

Tip #4: Seal up Cracks and Holes

Seal gaps around holes where pipes run through walls or floors, especially where the hole is letting in cold air. Use **caulk** or spray foam insulation to fill the gaps. If possible, seal holes on both the interior and exterior side of wall or floor.

Tip #5: Heating Tape

Heating tape is an “electric blanket” for pipes, supplying heat directly to the pipe to keep it warm during cold spells. This can be a good solution for short sections of pipe that are at high risk for freezing and are easily accessible.

Tip #6: Add Extra Insulation

If pipes freezing anywhere in your home is a problem, extra insulation could be the cure. Pipes can be fitted with foam rubber or fiberglass sleeves to help decrease the chances of freezing. Additional insulation can also be added to walls and ceilings to keep the pipes warm.