

Home Matters



Preventing Frozen Pipes

One of the messiest and most costly homeowner repairs is fixing a burst, frozen pipe. Water from a burst pipe can cause damage to carpeting, short out electrical appliances and ruin furniture. As such, consider utilizing the following products to help reduce your risk of experiencing a frozen pipe.

Spray Foam

This foam can be sprayed into the wall to fill cavities around pipes when the temperature cools. The foam will help insulate the walls and block airflow. If you utilize spray foam, make sure you also caulk exterior joints on the outside wall near pipes.

Heat Tape

This tape can be plugged into a grounded outlet and spiral wrapped around pipes. Tapes have built-in thermostats that automatically call for power when the temperature drops near freezing. When the temperature rises, the power cuts off.

In-pipe Heating Elements

These devices can be placed in water and sewer pipes to conduct heat directly into the pipe as needed.

Valve Units

These products can be screwed onto faucets (usually outside) and prohibit water from passing through when temperatures are too low. The valve sensor detects low and high temperatures. When low temperatures are detected, the sensor opens a micro-valve to produce heat. As the temperature rises, the valve closes.

The Consequences of Cold Pipes

Water expands as it freezes and puts significant pressure on the metal or plastic pipes that hold it. Pipes that are exposed to extreme cold can burst when water expands—this includes outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines and water supply pipes in basements, attics and garages. That's why it's important that all of your home's pipes are adequately protected when temperatures drop.

For more additional home maintenance guidance and homeowners insurance solutions, contact us today.

This flyer is for informational purposes only and is not intended as professional advice. © 2008, 2013, 2016, 2021 Zywave, Inc. All rights reserved.