

How to prevent frozen pipes

The worst time to remember these tips is when you're cold, wet and tired of mopping up after a burst pipe. The best time is now.



Bring the heat

Warm frozen pipes with a hair dryer. Move slowly and evenly, without aiming the nozzle at one spot.



Add the kitchen sink

Opening cabinet doors lets warm air reach water lines under a faucet.



Be a night owl

Run faucets and flush toilets a couple times overnight to move standing water in both inbound and outbound pipes.



Declutter your closets

Water pipes may run behind closet walls. A packed closet with a closed door blocks heat from reaching them.



Shut it down

If you lose heat in a power outage, shut off the main water valve and drain the lines by opening faucets. Same thing if you're travelling – even for a day or two.



Keep it moving

As a last resort, let faucets trickle all night; moving water is less likely to freeze.



Get smart (sensors)

Most smart water sensors monitor both moisture and temperature, alerting you the moment something goes wrong. Some even shut off the water supply. Place them near exterior walls and any appliances or fixtures that use water.



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23087-Frozen-Pipes-Infographic-122023