

Cold weather increases the likelihood for trouble with home water pipes. Here are some tips to help keep pipes from freezing and minimize potential plumbing mishaps:

### **A Drip of Water**

Allow a small drip from your faucets to relieve pressure if the pipes do start to freeze. This can help prevent a disastrous pipe burst. You can place a bowl in the sink to collect the water to use for house plants.

### **Circulate Heat**

Open all the doors to interior rooms to allow the heat to circulate throughout your home. Leaving under-sink cabinet doors open in your kitchen and bathroom allows your home's heat to protect the pipes.

### **Outside Faucets**

Disconnect garden hoses and sprinkler systems before cold weather arrives. Install an insulated cover on outdoor spigots and close the shutoff valves that lead to outdoor faucets, if possible.

### **Proper Insulation**

Exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. Remember: The more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be. Check pipes regularly for accumulation of ice or forming cracks. Fill holes or cracks in outside walls near pipes.

### **Call a Professional**

If you do have a frozen or burst pipe, close the main water shutoff valve to the house and call a licensed plumber immediately. Make sure everyone in the household knows where the main water shutoff valve is located.

Open a faucet in your home to relieve pressure. Frozen pipes can be thawed with warm air from a hair dryer. Never use an electrical appliance near standing water and never use an open flame or torches to thaw pipes, as this can lead to a fire.

# Protect Against Freezing Pipes!



**Fulton County  
Water Resources  
(404) 612-7400**

<http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/>