

If Your Pipes Freeze

- Contact a plumber if you have questions about appropriate procedures or the safe use of electrical appliances in thawing pipes. Thawing frozen pipes with electrical appliances can be dangerous because of the risk of electric shock.

If Your Pipes Break

- Immediately shut off the water at the master shut-off valve.
- If you are unable to find the master shut-off valve, call the Everett Public Works 24 Hour Emergency Number at 425-257-8821 for assistance. Staff are very busy during freeze emergencies and their response time may not be quick enough to prevent damage. Make sure YOU know how to turn off your master shut-off valve!
- Turn off the power to the water heater.



Who can I contact for more information?

If you have further questions, please contact us at:

City of Everett
Public Works Department
3200 Cedar Street
Everett WA 98201
425-257-8800
www.everettwa.org/pw

What other brochures are available?

- *Where Does Your Water Come From?*
- *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*
- *Is Your Water Safe?*
- *Using Water Wisely*
- *What's Clogging Your Drains?*
- *Concerned About Lead?*
- *Is Your Hose A Health Hazard?*
- *Water Pipe Flushing*
- *Concerned About West Nile Virus?*
- *Smart Watering*
- *Growing Healthy Soil*
- *What is a Drainage Basin?*
- *What Good are Detention Ponds?*

Please call the City of Everett Public Works Department for copies of any of these brochures at 425-257-8800.



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Preventing Frozen Pipes



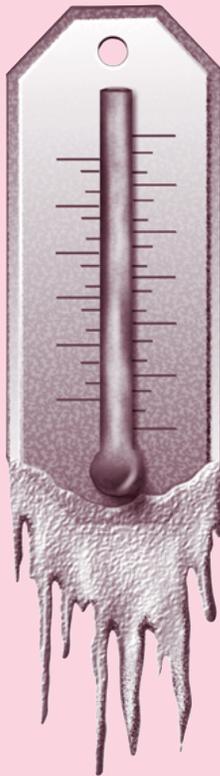
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Preventing Frozen Pipes

Frozen pipes leave you without water and since water expands when it freezes, it can also cause your water pipes to break. This may result in expensive plumbing repairs and water damage.

Here are a few tips to minimize the chance of freezing pipes and some suggestions of what to do if your pipes do freeze.



Before Freezing Weather Arrives

- Disconnect hoses.
- Insulate outside pipes and faucets.
- Insulate inside pipes and faucets in cold areas such as unheated attics, basements, garages and crawl spaces.
- Drain irrigation systems.
- Caulk around incoming pipes.
- Close or block foundation vents. Remember to open them again in the spring to prevent dry rot.
- Locate your master water shut-off valve and test it. If a pipe does break, damage can be minimized if you stop the flow of water quickly. City staff can turn off your water, but they are very busy during freeze emergencies and their response time may not be quick enough to prevent damage. So make sure YOU know how to turn off your master shut-off valve. If you don't have a master shut-off valve, have one installed.
- If you plan to take a winter vacation, shut off your water and drain your system. Be sure to turn off the water heater before you drain your pipes.



During Freezing Weather

- When temperatures reach low teens or stay below freezing for long periods of time, leave a thin stream of water running continuously from a tap at the farthest end of your water lines. The protection this provides your pipes is worth the water used.
- Open cupboard doors under sinks on outside walls so pipes are exposed to inside heat.

