

Make Your Home a No-Freeze Zone!

Tips for Being Prepared Before Winter Weather Starts

Each winter, many water customers experience the inconvenience of frozen pipes, which can result in extensive plumbing repairs and water damage. The following tips will help minimize your chance of having frozen pipes:

* **Leave a Faucet Running**

When temperatures are predicted to reach the low teens or stay below freezing, leave a very thin stream of water running continuously from at least one tap in your home or business.

* **Open Doors Below Sinks**

If a sink is located against an outside wall, open the vanity or cabinet doors to allow warm air to reach the water pipes.

* **Safety First**

Never thaw a frozen pipe with an open flame. Instead, use a hair dryer, heat tape, or a light bulb.

* **Hot Water Heater Precaution**

If you have an emergency and need to turn off the water supply to your home or building, be sure to turn off the electric breaker to your hot water heater to prevent damage to the unit.

Be Prepared!

* **Drain Pipes Before Extended Vacations**

When leaving for extended periods with the heat left off in your home or business, turn off the water at the shutoff valve and drain the lines.

* **Locate the Shutoff Valve**

If a pipe bursts somewhere in your home or business, knowing the exact location of the shutoff valve to your water may be the most important precaution that you can take. This valve turns off the flow of water and is usually located outside near the water line entering your home or business or within a few feet of the meter. If you are unable to locate the shutoff valve, contact the builder or your plumber to assist you.

Another option in case of an emergency is to turn off the water at the meter. The meter usually is in a ground-level box near the street curb in front of your home or business. Central Arkansas Water will respond in an emergency turn-off situation.

* **Eliminate Drafts**

Keep basement and garage doors and windows tightly closed all through the winter. Close crawl space vents and doors. Seal cracks in the walls of the basement or crawl space.

* **Insulate**

Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas. If you have water pipes, wrap the pipes with insulation before winter.

* **Protect Your Meter**

Check the meter box to make sure the cover is not broken or missing. Report broken or missing covers to Central Arkansas Water at 501.377.1239.

* **Protect Your Outside Faucets**

Disconnect outdoor hoses. Freezing temperatures can cause the faucet or its pipe to burst. If you have a sprinkler system, we recommend that you drain the water from the system before winter. In addition, it is a good idea to remove your backflow prevention device (Reduced Pressure Zone Assembly) for the winter or at least protect it in an insulated enclosure.