



## Preventing Frozen Pipes in the Winter

If your pipes freeze in the winter, it can cause a whole array of issues. A crack in a pipe can lead to flooding, mold, and other kinds of damage. This issue can occur in both cold and warm climates, and it does not discriminate between copper and plastic pipes.

Here are some safety tips for preventing this kind of disaster in a home or barn:

### Safety Tips

- Insulate any exposed pipes to help protect them from the cold.
- Keep your pipes warm. You can do this with heat tape or thermostatically controlled heat cables, installed according to the manufacturer's instructions. These are available from your local building supplier.
- Prevent heat leaks by sealing them using caulk or insulation. Pipes located along exterior walls may need extra attention.
- Protect your faucets. Disconnect garden hoses before winter hits and if possible, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes that lead to outside faucets.
- A trickle of hot and cold water can be enough to prevent pipes from freezing. Let warm water drip overnight, from a faucet on an outside wall if possible.
- Keep your thermostat set at the same temperature for both day and night. Turning it down overnight can lead to the pipes freezing.
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.