

Every winter, Chicagoans make big repairs to damage caused by frozen pipes that have burst. The Chicago Department of Water Management would like to remind you that there are some simple steps that you can take to prevent pipes from freezing:

- Maintain adequate heat throughout your house.
- Make sure that there is warm air circulating in any area where there are water pipes. Remember that this includes garages and unheated areas of the home - open a door from a heated area to ensure that the pipes stay warm enough to run.
- Insulate pipes, particularly those outside or on the perimeter of the residence.
- Run a trickle of cold water on each floor of the home at the points furthest from the location of the main water service comes into the home. The small increase to your utility bill could save you hundreds/thousands in utility charges and plumbing repairs if your pipes burst. The Department of Finance is unable to remove utility charges due to trickles, leaks, or burst pipes.
- If you have not already done it, remove all garden hoses and cover the bibs with Styrofoam hose bib insulating caps.
- Finally, if your pipes do freeze, do not use candles or any open flame to thaw them. Try a hair dryer or heating pad.

For more information, visit www.chicago.gov/water