

# Prevent Frozen Pipes

Keeping pipes from freezing is not an exact science. There are steps you can and should take, but every house is unique. The measures you take depend on your particular house and its vulnerabilities, including where you choose to drip water, how well-insulated it is, etc. You can't always prevent pipes from freezing, even if you do everything in your power to keep it from happening.

To prevent freezing pipes, you should let a very small amount of water drip from a faucet, typically just a single drip every few seconds, when temperatures consistently drop below freezing (around 32°F) for an extended period; this slow, steady drip is enough to keep water moving through the pipes and prevent ice from forming.

Here are some other helpful tips:

- Set home thermostats above 55 degrees during cold weather.
- Drip cold water in farthest faucet from your main valve. Moving water keeps pipes from freezing.
- Find shut off valves for emergencies.
- Insulate pipes in unheated areas.
- Open cupboards and vanities to warm pipes.
- Close inside valves that control the water supply.
- Open the outside spigots to allow to drain water out.
- Keep outside valve open so water remaining in the pipe can expand without causing a break.
- When freezing weather is coming, turn off water to outside spigots and drain all water from the line.