

# FIRST CALL RESTORATION MARCH NEWSLETTER

## FROZEN PIPES - FIGHT THE FREEZE

The cold temperatures haven't quite left us yet. Plummeting temperatures can bring one of the leading causes of water damage - frozen water pipes. Not only can this cause immense damage to your home and belongings, but the winter chill can lead to some big bills if you aren't taking the proper precautions.

The American Insurance Association says 45% of all claims on homeowner policies are for water and frozen pipe damages in the

winter months. In an analysis report run by State Farm in 2020, New York sat at number two for highest amount of claim money paid for frozen pipes at almost 24 million dollars. Protecting your pipes will help your chances of insurance coverage.

**Why pipes burst** - As water freezes it expands and builds up pressure inside of a pipe. As pressure continues to build, the pipe cannot accommodate the water which leads to pipes bursting and

potentially serious water damage.

The pipes most likely at risk for a burst are in unheated interior places, such as garages, basements, attics, under sinks and outside faucet and hoses. While copper pipes freeze easier than PVC pipes, PVC pipes become extremely brittle in the cold making them likely to burst when pipes do freeze. Fortunately, there is many ways to prevents pipes from freezing and bursting.



### Tips To Prevent Frozen Pipes

**Watch the Thermostat** - For water to freeze temperatures need to drop down to 32 degrees. For a pipe to freeze overnight, it needs to get down to 20 degrees. Keeping the inside temperature of your house at a minimum of 55 degrees in the winter will help prevent pipes from freezing. Be on top of your oil or propane delivery. A lot of times pipes burst when you run out of heat.

**Protect your pipes** - Make sure that all of your pipes are insulated. This will protect them even more if temperatures do drop. Pipe insulation is miniscule in price compared to what it may cost if a pipe bursts.

**Identify your homes freezing points** - Drafty windows, exterior doors and garage doors are culprits of pipe breaks. Even a pinpoint hole leading to outside can cause a split. Make sure these areas are sealed sufficiently. Furthermore, if it does get cold in your home, open cabinets in the kitchen and bathroom to help circulate warm air around the plumbing.

**Outside water sources** - Check irrigation, hoses and sprinkler systems. Make sure everything is turned off and drained. Foam

faucet covers are inexpensive, easy to install and can be reused each season.

**Leave a trickle of water running** - Keeping a small pencil thin trickle of water running in pipes that are prone to freezing will help prevent any breaks.

### Tips If Your Pipes Do Freeze

**Know where your water shut off is** - Many times, you have no idea your pipes are frozen. When you go to turn your water on no water will come out. If this happens turn your water off immediately. Make sure you know ahead of time where your main water shut off valve is and that it is readily accessible. Call a plumber as soon as possible so they can find the split. If you can find where the split is in the pipe, place a bucket underneath to catch any thawing water.

**Thawing pipes** - Do not attempt to thaw pipes yourself. Doing so can be dangerous and cause more damage such as a house fire. Plumbers have special equipment to thaw pipes without the hazard and have the experience in handling such issues.

**Water sensors** - Placing water sensors in vulnerable areas such as under sinks and in basements can give you a heads up if pipes

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can freeze or if water is detected. A plumber can install these for you, or Ring makes an affordable sensor to help protect your home.

As in all situations, the more prepared you are, the better off you'll be! We are glad you could join us in the New Year and remember, First Call is here for all your needs. We are only a phone call away.