



New Castle Water Department : Home Owners Winter Survival Guide

If you are planning to leave on vacation and do not want your pipes to freeze, here are a few tips on keeping your house free of costly repairs throughout the winter season. If you are wintering in Colorado, these are great ways to protect your home also.

- **DO NOT TURN YOUR HEAT SOURCE OFF!** Keeping your thermostats set around 55-60 degrees while you are gone it will safeguard your home from broken pipes.
- If you are leaving for an extended period of time and would like to turn the water off to your home you can do so yourself at the water meter. After shutting the water off at the meter turn on every faucet in your home to drain the lines.
- If your water meter is located in your garage, **DO NOT LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN.** Your water meter and pipes can and will freeze.



Maintenance

Regular maintenance and precautionary steps you can take when winterizing your home.

- Foam Pipe Insulation - Easy to install. Cut to fit any length, snaps onto pipes. Know your pipe size before going to the hardware store.
- Heat Tape - Adhesive insulated tape, easy to install and you don't need to know your pipe size.
- Pipe Heating Cable - An electric cable that wraps around pipes. Comes in various lengths. Disconnect when not in use and periodically check to make sure it is working properly.

All of these are very simply installed onto exposed pipes or pipes great distances from heating sources. All of these items can be found in most general or hardware stores. Remember that these precautionary steps are not a guarantee that pipes will not freeze. However, you do greatly reduce the likelihood of frozen pipes and damage to your home.



What do you do if your pipes freeze?



In the unfortunate event your pipes freeze and you cannot isolate the break at the water meter with the shut off valves, please call Town Hall @ (970) 984-2311. We will assist you in shutting off your water. You must call a licenced plumber to fix any broken pipes.

If you find ice on your water meter and it appears to be broken, call Town Hall. The plate on the underside of the meter is designed to break and freeze to protect your home. If this happens the Water Department will replace it for you.