

FROZEN PIPES! WHAT TO DO?

When pipes freeze, you will have blocked or restricted water flow, which is usually the first indication of a problem. During an extended cold spell, pipes may freeze despite precautions taken.

You must act quickly to prevent pipes from bursting.

At the first sign of a blockage, open a faucet so that once the pipe thaws the water has a place to go, relieving the pressure and preventing the pipe from bursting.

Finding the blockage is critical. If you think you know where the freezing occurred, the safest tool to use is a hair dryer on a low setting. Wave the warm air back and forth along the pipe. **DO NOT** hold in one spot. Be careful as the pipe may already be broken. As the water thaws it could come gushing out. Be ready to shut the water off at the master shut off valve if necessary.

If you don't know where the freezing occurred, you may want to call your plumber to trace the supply pipe where it runs through exterior walls or other unheated areas.

CAUTION: DO NOT under any circumstances use a torch or any open flame. The entire home could catch fire. Also, overheating in one spot can burst the pipe and heating a soldered joint could allow it to leak or come apart.

Source: AWWA (American Water Works Association)