



City of Yakima

News Release

Subject: Take Steps to Prevent Freezing Pipes

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Take Steps to Prevent Freezing Pipes

As outside temperatures continue to plummet overnight, the likelihood of freezing pipes increases. Frozen pipes are at higher risk of bursting, which can lead to costly water damage.

"Fortunately, there are steps residents and building owners can take to reduce the risk of freezing pipes," said Assistant Public Works Director David Brown.

The following are some best practices recommended by the Cities Insurance Association of Washington for plumbing winterization during cold weather:

- Insulate exposed pipes: Typically pipes are susceptible to freezing when temperatures fall below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Insulating pipes in unheated and exposed areas will greatly reduce the likelihood of a pipe bursting.
- Seal off crawlspaces and attics: This will prevent the air in these areas from cooling below freezing, protecting any pipes that might run through them.
- Exterior faucet maintenance: During severe temperature drops (below freezing), consider allowing faucets located on exterior walls to run a steady drip. This eliminates pressure buildup between the faucet and any ice blockage. Even if the pipes do freeze, they most likely will not burst.
- Inspect exposed plumbing: Do a visual inspection of exposed plumbing to check for leaks and potential cold spots. Any drips, leaks, or cold spots can then be fixed before they become larger problems.
- Leave the cabinet doors under sinks open, especially on exterior walls, to allow warm air to circulate around the pipes

For more information about the City of Yakima's Water/Irrigation Division visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/water-irrigation/> or call 575-6154.

For water/irrigation billing questions, call 575-6080.