



FROZEN WATER PIPE ADVISORY

Ayer is expected to experience a hard cold snap over the next few of days. The DPW Water Division would like to warn you about the common occurrence of frozen water pipes in this type of weather and make sure you keep the name and number of your plumber handy throughout the winter.

Of course protecting against frozen pipes before the cold hits is best. However, if your pipes do freeze after the meter (inside your home/business) and you experience no water conditions, it may be best to call a licensed plumber. If the water freezes before the meter or at the meter Ayer DPW Water Division may be able to help.

Tips for Preventing Frozen Pipes

- If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warm air flow in.
- Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run. The cost of the extra water is typically lower than the cost of repairing a broken pipe.

Tips for Thawing Frozen Pipes

If you can locate the frozen section of pipe you can try to thaw it yourself. However, be sure to take the following precautions to protect yourself and your property.

- **DO make sure you know the location of your master water shut-off valve**

The frozen pipe may already be broken and, when the water is thawed, it will leak. In this case, you will need to shut off the water in your home or business until the leaky pipe is fixed.

- **DO use a hair dryer or hot air blower**

Open the faucet first. Start by warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible, working towards the coldest section of the pipe. Water running through the pipe will help to melt the ice in the pipe.

- **DO place a warm towel or rag around the pipe**

Pour hot water over the cloth. Repeat several times until the pipe is not frozen.

- **Do NOT use a torch with an open flame**

You risk setting your property on fire. In addition, overheating one area can cause the pipe to burst. Open flames in homes present a serious fire danger, as well as a severe risk of exposure to lethal carbon monoxide.

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For more information and tips on how to prevent water pipes from freezing, please call the DPW Office at 978-772-8240 during regular business hours or email kabraham@ayer.ma.us.

