



ADOBE STOCK ILLUSTRATION BY ALEUTIE

Don't Let Frozen Pipes Burst Your Bliss

Klickitat PUD operates 10 water systems throughout Klickitat County. To help prepare for winter weather, the PUD's water experts have tips to help you prevent frozen pipes—and minimize the impact if they do occur.

When freezing temperatures are in the forecast, run a small, steady stream of water from an inside faucet to help prevent your pipes from freezing. If pipes do freeze, running the faucet helps release built-up water pressure.

If you have a sink against an outside wall, open cabinet doors below the sink. This allows warm air to circulate.

If you will be away from

your home for an extended time and your pipes are not winterized, do not turn off the heat. Leave the thermostat set to at least 55 degrees to keep pipes above freezing temperatures.

If you have a vacation home, shutoff and drain the water lines for the season.

It may be useful to insulate pipes—especially those below your house, in exterior walls or in a basement, garage or attic. Make sure these areas are enclosed to keep the ambient temperature warm.

Consider covering pipes with UL-approved heat tape—a cable that emits heat to prevent pipes from freezing. Choose a version with a built-in thermostat to avoid overheating.

These measures are not

guarantees against frozen pipes, but they do help and are far cheaper than the costs of repairing frozen or burst pipes.

It is not just faucets and showers that are at risk of freezing. Follow these tips to keep all your pipes safe:

- Disconnect and drain your sprinkler system and any garden hoses.
- Occasionally run your washing machine on warm and turn on your freezer's icemaker to course water through the pipes.
- Cover exterior faucets with insulated covers and cut off the water supply.

Frozen Pipes

If you turn on the tap and no water flows, you may have frozen pipes.

If you cannot find the

location of the frozen pipe, call your water provider. If that is KPUD, call 509-773-5891 and an operator will be dispatched to check if your meter is frozen.

If it is not the meter, the frozen pipe blocking the system is somewhere within your home's plumbing, and you will be responsible to find and fix it. ■

Pipe Thawing Tips:

- ▶ Warm towels or blankets in the clothes dryer, then wrap them around the frozen pipe. Continue this process until water flows again.
- ▶ If you do not have a clothes dryer, consider using an electric heating pad, a portable space heater or a blow dryer to warm the pipe.