

WINTER REMINDERS

During the winter (or in the early spring when freezing weather is unpredictable) you may want to take some time to prepare for freezing temperatures that could result in expensive plumbing repairs and water damage. The following are a few tips to minimize the chance of freezing pipes and what to do if your pipes freeze:

1. Disconnect hoses and insulate exposed pipes and faucets outside and in unheated attics, basements, garages and crawl spaces. Close or block foundation vents. (remember to open in spring to prevent dry rot).
2. Locate the main shut-off valve. Don't wait for an emergency. Find the shut-off valve now and test it. If a pipe does break, damage will be minimized if you are able to stop the flow of water as soon as possible.
3. When temperatures reach low teens or stay below freezing for long periods of time, leave a thin stream of water running continuously from a tap at the farthest end of your water lines.
4. Open a cupboard door under sinks on outside walls so pipes are exposed to inside heat.
5. If your pipes do freeze, apply warm damp rags to thaw. Use of handheld electric appliances to thaw frozen pipes is not recommended.
6. If your pipes do break, immediately shut off the water at the main shut-off valve and turn off the power to the water heater. If you are unable to find the shut-off valve, call the District for emergency service at 425-787-0250.