

THE SAFETY LEADER

Prevention is the Key

Thawing Frozen Pipes

During the winter months the mercury can drop below freezing in every part of the nation. Temperatures below Zero Degrees Fahrenheit can cause pipes to freeze in a dwelling, cottage, garage, or barn. These losses cause MILLIONS of dollars in damage each year and all these losses CAN BE AVOIDED. Here are some things you can do to avoid damage during a cold spell:

- Insulate all water supply pipes.
- Seal any building openings near pipes that will allow cold weather in, such as foundation cracks or broken windows.
- Keep the heat above 55 degrees.
- Shut off the water main or the water pump when you are gone for a couple days or more.
- Drain the water pipes when you are out of the building for an extended period of time. Then flush all toilets and open all faucets. Remember to put RV antifreeze in all your drains to protect the "P" trap from freezing.

If you have a frozen pipe, first shut off the water supply before you attempt to thaw out the pipe. NEVER use an open flame or salamander heater when attempting to thaw out a pipe. Using these items directly on pipes will ignite surrounding combustibles. Use a hair dryer and thaw them evenly and patiently. An 1/8 inch crack in a pipe can send 250 gallons of water through the structure every day.

NEVER use an open flame when trying to thaw frozen pipes.



Damage can be excessive and expensive



Frozen Copper Pipes will bulge and split



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