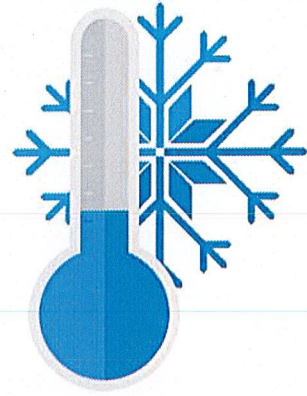


Avoid Costly Repairs and Protect Your Water Pipes During Cold Temperatures



Cold temperatures can cause pipes to freeze or break. Have you thought about protecting your water lines from expensive repairs? The Village of DeForest Water Utility has suggestions for property owners on protecting private water laterals.

Tip #1: Keep the Heat On

If you or your tenants are leaving for a period of time, make sure that the heat is kept on at your property. Keeping the heat to 55 degrees Fahrenheit is a good idea. This should provide enough heat to keep the pipes warm and to prevent any water inside from freezing.

Tip #2: Allow Faucet to Drip

If you are afraid a pipe will freeze, you can allow the faucet to drip slightly. **Note:** to avoid unnecessary and costly water usage, test how much water you are running. You should not need more than 4 gallons per hour which means you should not overfill a one gallon jug in 15 minutes (EXAMPLE: use an old milk gallon jug).

Tip #3: Keep Interior Doors Open

Pipes are often located in cabinets. When the temperatures drop, it is a good idea to keep these cabinet doors open so that the heat from the rest of the house can keep the pipes warm as well. You should also keep all interior doors open so that the heat can flow throughout the home.

Tip #4: Seal Up Cracks and Holes

You should caulk any holes or cracks that exist near pipes. This should be done on both interior and exterior walls. Doing so can help keep the cold air out and the warm air in.

Tip #5: Apply Heating Tape

For pipes that are easily accessible, electrical heating tape may be an option to keep them from freezing. This tape can be applied directly to the pipe.

Tip #6: Add Extra Insulation

Pipes that are located in areas that do not have proper insulation, such as basements or attics, may need extra insulation to keep from freezing. Pipes in basements or attics are not the only ones that may not be properly insulated from the cold. If you have had a problem with pipes freezing anywhere in your home, extra insulation could be the cure.

Source: <https://www.thebalance.com/how-to-thaw-a-frozen-water-pipe-2124986>

PLEASE NOTE: These are public service recommendations to protect your private property. Our public mains are currently not experiencing problems; therefore, the DeForest Water Utility is not requiring any further action at this time. At this time, the utility will NOT be reimbursing expenses taken by property owners to protect private property.

Contact DeForest Utility Supervisor, Mark Tenjum, with questions at 846-6751.

