

# Preventing Frozen Water Pipes



Tips from Somerset Water Department

## INDOOR TIPS:

- \* **Maintain heat at 55 degrees minimum (including in basement)**
- \* **Avoid drafts where water meter and exposed pipe are located**
- \* **Insulate pipes that are located in cold and drafty places in the home**

## OUTDOOR TIPS:

- \* **Disconnect hoses**
- \* **Shut off faucets from inside basement and drain the faucets**

## IN EXTREME COLD:

- \* **Open cabinet doors to allow heat to reach pipes**
- \* **Some customers choose to run cold water faucets constantly (the size of a pencil lead) - This may help if your service has a history of freezing**

## BE PREPARED:

- \* **Find the master shutoff valve... It may be near the water heater, washing machine, or where the water service pipe enters the house from the street. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house, this valve will turn the water flow off. Make sure everyone in the family knows where this valve is.**
- \* **Have a plumber's number handy... in case of an unexpected emergency.**

## FROZEN PIPE?

- \* **NEVER use a torch or flame to try to thaw a frozen pipe.**
- \* **If attempting to thaw the pipe yourself, the best tool is a hair dryer on a low setting: wave back and forth over pipe.**
- \* **When thawing pipes be mindful that they may already be broken and may start to leak once they begin to thaw. Be ready to run to the shutoff valve.**

## SOMERSET WATER DEPARTMENT

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Frozen pipes aren't just an inconvenience. Families have their homes ruined and their lives disrupted each winter because of water pipes that freeze.

# PROTECT YOUR METER FROM FREEZING!!

**\$\$\$ PROPERTY OWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY  
DAMAGE TO THE WATER METER! \$\$\$**



\*\*\* Since it is colder near the floor and block wall of a basement than the ceiling, make sure warm air is allowed to circulate around your meter. Leave the door open to the room with the meter to allow warmth to circulate in the room with the meter.

\*\*\* Eliminate cold drafts near water pipes, check for open windows, air vents, and wind drafts near the meter.

\*\*\* Seal leaks in the basement foundation where cold air may enter. Stuff holes with insulation. A tiny opening may cause an exposed meter to freeze.

\*\*\* If your meter is in a cabinet, open the cabinet door to allow warmth to circulate in the cabinet.