

## 5 Ways to Prevent Your Pipes from Freezing



Winter is coming, and we're all about providing plumbing tips on how to prepare for the seasons. Temperatures have been dropping, as they normally do in the fall, and before we know it, they will dip below zero.

Cold weather likes to freeze a lot of things, including your home's piping system. As [we've previously written, frozen pipes are no joke and can cause severe damage to your home](#). When water in a pipe freezes, it expands, putting pressure on metal and plastic pipes, which can cause the pipe to break and create flooding.

We don't want that to happen to you, and the good news is that you can prevent it by doing the following:

## **1. Keep Kitchen and Bathroom Cabinet Doors Open**

It's good manners to keep doors closed, but it's wiser to keep them open in the winter. When your kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors stay open, they make way for warmer air to circulate around the plumbing, and this is especially important for sinks that are on an exterior wall. Warm is the enemy of cold, and the enemy of your enemy is your friend.

## **2. Drip Cold Water from Faucets**

Just as leaving kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors open seems counter-intuitive, so does letting the water run from your faucets. After all, doesn't that run up your water bill? Well, it's less expensive to pay a few extra dollars per month for a few months than the cost of fixing water damage. A slight trickle from faucets protects your pipes by preventing pressure-buildup and allowing a steady flow of water through your pipes that decreases the chances of freezing. If you do leave a faucet slowly running, make sure that the sink waste line is clear or that water may overflow.

## **3. Disconnect Hoses**

The running theme here is that frozen water has bad intentions and is unforgiving toward any conduit through which it passes. That means your garden hose is also a target, and if it's connected to your exterior faucet, watch out. You'll wish that only the hose got damaged because when the water in the hose freezes, it expands and increases pressure throughout your home's whole plumbing system, and pop goes interior pipes. Luckily, prevention is simple: disconnect and drain your garden hoses ahead of freezing temps.

## **4. Set Your Thermostat at a Consistent Temperature**

If you're going to be away from home for a while, ensure that your furnace is set no lower than 55 degrees. Additionally, shut off your home's main water supply, and drain the system by opening all your faucets and flushing toilets. When it gets polar vortex cold, have your plumber do a safety check to inspect the system and drain the hot water heater.

## **5. Insulate**

Many home plumbing pipes reside in unheated areas, including your garage, attic, basement, and crawl space. They are at risk of freezing and bursting, but you can protect them by using pipe insulation or by wrapping them in heat tape or heat cables equipped with a thermostat control. Err on the side of reliability and leave this job for your plumber.

## **Pipe Up!**

Alan Tinker Plumbing & Rodding can assess your home plumbing system and protect your pipes from freezing. Leave nothing to chance. Contact us, and we'll get back to you ASAP! Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).