

## Cold Weather Checklist

- Know where the main shut-off valve for your plumbing is located and how to turn it off. It may be near the water heater, near an outside hose bib, inside the garage, in the basement or crawl space, or near the water meter.
- Eliminate drafts by closing and insulating vents.
- Caulk and seal any openings near your water pipes.
- Insulate pipes.
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses.
- Protect outside pipes and faucets.
- Some homes have separate shut-off valves for outside faucets.** They are usually located under the sink or in the garage. They must be drained correctly.
  - Determine the low point, as water in the pipe will drain to the low point. The low point will be an outside faucet or the inside shut-off valve.
  - If the outside faucet is the low point, find the shut-off valve for it and close it. Go outside and open the faucet allowing the water to drain. After draining, turn off the faucet.
  - If the shut-off valve to the faucet is the low point, close the valve. Go outside and open the faucet. Go back inside and place a bucket under the valve. Open the small brass plug or cap located on the valve. Water will drain into the bucket. After draining, tighten the plug and turn off the outside faucet.

- Cover or insulate exterior faucets.
- Winterize sprinkler systems, pools, and spas according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- If you plan to be away from home for an extended period, leave the heat on, or drain your water system before you go. Ask someone to check your house daily while you are away.

**WARNING: Do not try to thaw pipes with an open flame of any kind.**



## During The Worst Freezing Weather

- Let a thin stream of water run from the faucets located farthest from the street.
- Keep heat at 55° F or higher.
- Open cabinet doors under the sinks.
- When plumbing pipes are frozen, there may be water available at one faucet but not another.

### If a Pipe Freezes

- Shut off the water at the main shut-off valve.
- Open faucets.
- Gradually warm the frozen pipe with one of the following methods:
  - ✦ Expose the area to inside heat.
  - ✦ Use a blow dryer.
  - ✦ Wrap the pipe with a heating pad.
  - ✦ Beam a heat lamp 8 or more inches from the pipe.
  - ✦ Wrap the pipe with rags and pour hot water on it.

### If a Pipe Bursts

- Turn off the main shut-off valve.
- Open all the faucets.
- Place a bucket under the leak until the pipe can be repaired.
- Call a plumber.

## What You Need to Know

*Burst water pipes can result in damage, costly repairs and unnecessary water waste.*

- ✦ Frozen and bursting pipes can be avoided with just a few preventative measures. Use the tips and checklists inside to keep your plumbing pipes from freezing or bursting.
- ✦ The customer's responsibility for maintaining plumbing begins immediately after the meter and continues through the entire home.
- ✦ If you need help locating your water shut-off valve or turning off your water at the meter, please call your water provider. Contact numbers are provided on the adjacent page.

## Who Do I Call?

Call your water provider if you need assistance with water related concerns or broken pipes.

City of Fairview Public Works  
503-665-9320

City of Gresham Water Division  
503-618-2626

Rockwood Water People's Utility District  
503-665-4179

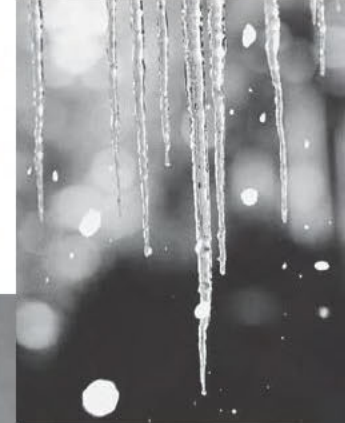
City of Troutdale Water Division  
503-665-5175

In the event of a severe winter storm, please reserve 911 for life threatening emergencies.

Get prepared and stay safe with weather information at  
[GreshamOregon.gov/WinterWeather](http://GreshamOregon.gov/WinterWeather)

For tips on emergency preparedness visit  
[GreshamOregon.gov/EmergencyManagement](http://GreshamOregon.gov/EmergencyManagement)

# Prepare Your Plumbing Pipes for Winter



CITY OF  
GRESHAM