



Prepare Now To Protect Water Pipes in Cold Weather

ISELIN, N.J., December 8, 2015 -- Winters can be harsh on household plumbing so don't let winter weather catch you unprepared. Protect the water meter and pipes from freezing temperatures. Middlesex Water offers the following helpful tips to help you minimize problems and avoid the expense and inconvenience of frozen pipes:

Start Outdoors

- Disconnect and drain the garden hose from outside faucet connections. This can help prevent outside faucets and pipes from freezing, leaking or breaking.
- Close outside vents, crawl spaces and doors so cold air doesn't seep inside.
- Repair broken windows and seal cracks in the walls.
- Check and repair lids on outside meter pits.

Insulate, Insulate, Insulate

- Wrap water lines and meters in commercial insulation.
- Wrap pipes in unheated areas such as the garage, crawl space or attics.

Locate The Shut-off Valves

- Make sure the valves on either side of the water meter are working properly.
- Locate your main water shut-off valve to your home and place a visible tag on it. Make sure everyone in the house knows where it is and how to operate it in an emergency.

More Tips For Freezing Weather

- Check the meter periodically to see if there is damage and contact your utility if you detect a crack.
- If your sink is located against an outside wall, open the cabinet doors overnight to allow warm air to reach water pipes.
- If you have had problems with frozen pipes in the past, temporarily keep a trickle of water running from the highest faucet in your house. When water is moving, it is less likely to freeze.
- If you suspect a pipe is frozen, check various faucets. If some faucets work and others don't, you likely have a pipe inside your home that is frozen.
- To thaw a frozen pipe, wrap the pipe with rags and carefully and repeatedly pour hot water over the rags. Once they are thawed, rewrap pipes with clean, dry insulation to prevent refreezing.
- Never use an open flame or electrical device to thaw frozen pipes.

For more information on how you can prevent frozen pipes, click [here](#).

Middlesex Water Company, organized in 1897, provides regulated and unregulated water and wastewater utility services in New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania through various subsidiary companies. For additional information regarding Middlesex Water Company visit www.middlesexwater.com or call (732) 634-1500.

###

Bernadette M. Sohler, Middlesex Water Company
bsohler@middlesexwater.com (732) 638-7549