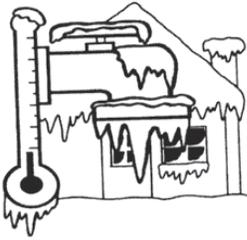
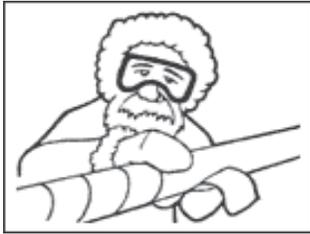


# PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WINTER WEATHER



## Locate the cutoff valve for your home.

If a water pipe should burst, you can turn the valve off and stop the flow of water before any flooding occurs. This cutoff valve is usually found near where the water line comes into your house or basement.



## Wrap up for the winter.

Wrap exposed pipes with insulating material. Pipes under kitchen sinks and in crawl spaces, near windows or in unheated basements are prime areas for pipes to freeze.



## Make sure you have it covered.

If your house has a crawl space, cover outside vents to prevent winter winds from entering and freezing pipes.



## Keep the water running.

If you've had problems with frozen pipes in the past, try running a small steady stream of water from a cold water faucet in extremely cold weather. The cost of the water is small compared to dealing with the cost and inconvenience of frozen or burst pipes.



## Consider using available heat sources for some pipes.

Sometimes simply leaving a door open, such as a door under a sink or a door to a garage, will allow heat to reach vulnerable pipes. Heat lamps can also be used to help prevent freezing of pipes. Sometimes, a heat source such as a simple light bulb near the pipe is sufficient.



## Never use open flames around a frozen pipe.

An open flame is always a fire hazard, and a flame could cause the water in the pipe to turn into steam and build up enough pressure to split the pipe. Sometimes ice in a pipe will melt if you warm it with a hair dryer or wrap it in hot towels.