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## **HANDY TIPS TO AVOID FROZEN PIPES THIS WINTER**

### **IT'S ALL ABOUT PREVENTION**

Frozen pipes can leave you without water in the worst of winter. And cost a lot to repair. But with a few simple steps, you can easily preserve both your budget and your peace of mind.

### **BEFORE THE COLD WATER SETS IN**

- Check sprinklers or irrigation systems. Make sure everything is turned off and drained.
- Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines. Fix drafty windows and plug drafts around doors. Identify your home's freezing points.
- Know how to shut off your water.
- Protect your pipes. Wrap them with insulation.

### **WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING**

- If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.
- Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run.

### **BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE**

- Shut off the water immediately.
- Thaw pipes with warm air, with a hair dryer or space heater. Do not leave space heaters unattended and do not use kerosene heaters or open flames.
- Be careful turning water back on. Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks.