



## **WATER AND SEWER DIVISIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Town of Wallingford  
377 South Cherry Street  
Wallingford, Connecticut 06492  
Telephone: 203-949-2660

### **How to Help Prevent Frozen Water Pipes and Water Meters**

When below freezing temperatures are sustained over multiple days, water pipes and meters that are exposed to cold air may freeze. **The pipes most likely to freeze are those nearest an uninsulated wall, door, garage, attic and basement, or along an uninsulated floor.** Frozen water pipes and meters can interrupt water supply, and may be expensive to repair or replace. Property owners are responsible for protecting water pipes and water meters from damage. *Preventing pipes and a water meter from freezing is easier than trying to thaw them.*

1. Know the location of your main shut-off valve. If a pipe freezes or bursts, shut the water off immediately. Show all household members how to turn the water off if needed.
2. Make frequent use of your water supply if your pipes are susceptible to freezing.
  - ✓ Keep your faucets circulating by running a thin, steady stream of water during the day and particularly at night as a preventative measure. Flowing (dripping) water can still freeze but this method makes it somewhat more difficult for the water to freeze.
3. Provide warmth to the water pipes.
  - ✓ Open an interior door to the room where the pipes are located to allow heated air to circulate around the pipes and water meter.
  - ✓ Wrap exposed pipes with insulation or use electrical heat tracing wire.
  - ✓ Place a heat lamp or portable electric heater near water pipes.
  - ✓ If your kitchen or bathroom sink is located against an outside wall, insulate the wall. Open the cabinet door below the sink to allow warm air to reach the pipes.
  - ✓ **Never use a torch, kerosene heater or any other open flame!**
4. Eliminate cold drafts near water pipes.
  - ✓ Turn off water connections to outside spigots and drain any remaining water by opening the outside faucet until all water is expelled before cold temperatures set in.
  - ✓ Tightly close doors and windows to the outside. Cover foundation vents.
  - ✓ Install storm windows on basement windows, and repair broken windows.
  - ✓ Eliminate drafts from crawl spaces.
  - ✓ Fill cracks in walls and around windows and doors.

Please contact the Water and Sewer Divisions Business Office at 203-949-2660 between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday should you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you.