



## Cold Weather Water Tips

### Before Freezing Weather Sets In

- ***Wrap exposed pipes***  
Cover any exposed pipes with insulating material.
- ***Secure basements against the cold***  
Plug up drafty cracks and repair broken window panes.
- ***Block air passages into crawl spaces***  
Cover outside vents to prevent cold air from entering crawl spaces and freezing pipes.
- ***Check outside faucets***  
Remove hoses from outside faucets and check the washers to be sure there are no leaks, which could freeze.
- ***Locate your shut-off valve***  
Make sure every member of the household knows where your main water shut-off valve is located. The shut-off valve should be used in the event of a burst pipe or if you have a significant leak. The shut-off valve is usually located where the water pipe enters your house or on a vertical pipe leading from the point of entry inside your basement wall or crawl space. In some homes, it can be found in the utility room.

### During Freezing Weather

- ***Keep meter box lids closed***  
Do not open your meter box, as injuries can result from lids, which are not properly secured. Also, cold air can freeze the meter. If you notice a meter box lid that is not properly secured, please call HWEA.
- ***Make sure heat reaches your pipes***  
If your pipes are enclosed in a cabinet under the bathroom or kitchen sink, leave the doors open so the heat can keep pipes from freezing.
- ***Keep a trickle of water running***  
During periods of low usage and particularly on sub-zero nights, keep a trickle of water running from the faucet highest in the home. This trickle should be a steady stream.

### If You Have a Frozen Pipe

- ***Never use an open flame***  
Never try to thaw a pipe with a flame, because you may start a fire.