

# Tips to Help Keep Pipes from Freezing this Winter

We're dealing with another exceptionally cold winter. This means the water pipes leading to, and inside, your home are at risk of damage from freezing conditions. Lake Mills Light & Water offers following tips to help you protect your home before - and after - a pipe freezes.



## Ways to Prevent Your Pipes from Freezing

Although some of these tips may require some time to complete ahead of cold weather, they can all help keep water flowing.

- Keep your house temperature at 55 degrees or higher, even if you are leaving the house for an extended period of time.
- Open cabinet doors below sinks to allow heat from the home to circulate.
- Disconnect all garden hoses and install covers on outside faucets.
- Identify the location of the main water valve as well as the valve on your water heater and make sure they work (turn easily). Knowing the location of these valves may come in handy during an emergency.



- Install pipe insulation on all water pipes, especially those nearest exterior walls and in crawl spaces.

- Consider the use of heat tape to wrap pipes - but be sure to do it safely. Also be sure all heat tapes can be disconnected or turned off when not needed. *Improper use of heat tape can be dangerous and can increase your electric bill.*

- If you plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time, shut off the water supply valve.
- Identify the location of your water meter and take precautions to keep it from freezing.

**You may consider requesting permission from Lake Mills Light & Water to run a small stream of water (i.e., the size of pencil lead) to help prevent water pipes from freezing. Running water in this manner can only be done with prior knowledge and approval from Lake Mills Light & Water.**

**For more information contact LML&W at 920-648-4026.**

## Monitor Freezing Pipe Conditions

The first sign of freezing may be reduced water flow from a faucet. Here are some ways to check your home's water pipes.

- Monitor your water temperature and flow to help recognize if any pipes are beginning to freeze.
- If the water temperature drops below 40° F, contact Lake Mills Light & Water to request approval to run a small stream of water.
- Check your faucets for water flow and pressure before you go to sleep and again when you wake up.

## If a Pipe Freezes

Even the best preparations and attention cannot always prevent freezing. If your water lines do freeze, here are some tips to help thaw them.

- We recommend contacting a local plumber to help thaw pipes safely.
- If a faucet or pipe inside your house freezes, try thawing it using a good hair dryer (for safety, avoid operating a hair dryer around standing water).
- When thawing a pipe, start thawing it nearest to the faucet. Make sure the faucet is turned on so that the melted water can drip out.



**LAKE MILLS LIGHT & WATER**

**155 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE**

**LAKE MILLS, WI 53551**

**920-648-4026    WWW.LAKEMILLSLW.COM**

