How to prevent frozen pipes

The worst time to remember these tips is when you're cold, wet and tired of mopping up after a burst pipe. The best time is now.



1. Bring the heat.

Warm frozen pipes with a hair dryer. Move slowly and evenly, without aiming at one spot.

2. Declutter your closets.

Water pipes may run behind closet walls. A packed closet blocks heat from reaching them.

3. Add the kitchen sink.

Opening cabinet doors lets warm air reach water lines under faucets.

4. Shut it down.

If you lose heat in a power outage, shut off the main water valve and drain the lines by opening faucets.

5. Be a night owl.

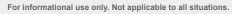
Run faucets and flush toilets a couple times overnight to move standing water.

6. Keep it moving.

As a last resort, let faucets trickle all night; moving water is less likely to freeze.

7. Get smart (sensors)

Smart water sensors can alert you the moment something goes wrong. Some even shut off the water supply.



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