

## Cold Weather Tips

It is important to remember that when the ambient air temperature drops to freezing temperature (32 degrees and below) water supply pipes and apparatuses such as meters can freeze and rupture. Many times when a rupture occurs it will not reveal itself until temperatures rise again causing the frozen water to thaw. Once thawed, the water begins to be spilled or in most cases spray everywhere. Pittsfield Township Department of Utilities and Municipal Services offers the following tips to best ensure that pipes do not freeze.

- Let a thin stream of cold water run from a faucet. The stream should be a continuous flow, about the thickness of a pencil. This water can be caught in a bucket or pail to be recycled later as laundry or dishwater.
- Be sure pipes in unheated parts of your home or crawl space are insulated; many hardware stores carry foam insulation for this purpose.
- Leave interior cupboard doors under sinks open, especially if the sink piping is adjacent to an exterior wall.
- Plug up drafty cracks and repair broken window panes that allow cold air insure where pipes are located.
- If your pipe is frozen, gently warm it with hot air from a blow dryer at the point where it enters your house.
- Be sure you know the location of the water shut-off valve in your home. Check it periodically to ensure it works properly
- Shut off and drain pipes leading to outside faucets.
- Remember to have your outside sprinkler system winterized.

If you lose water service in one or more areas of the building, check to see if you can isolate the frozen location. Common piped areas which freeze first are located adjacent to exterior walls or where the water service enters your home through the foundation. Apply heat to the suspected section of exposed pipe with one of the following preferred methods.

- An electric hair dryer, carpet sweeper exhaust or a light bulb in the area of the freeze.
- Heat tape can be used, but it must be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- NEVER USE ANTI-FREEZE TO THAW A PIPE. The Chemicals could contaminate the water supply.

**NOTE: THE USE OF ANY OPEN FLAME IN THE HOME OR IN CONFINED SPACE IS NOT RECOMMENDED. A POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARD AND THE RISK OF COMBUSTABLE FUMES EXISTS.**

If you are unable to regain service, you may want to contact a plumber.