



HOW TO WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

Plumbing systems are under significant pressure from the changing weather conditions, resulting in quite the plumbing disaster during the cold winter months. A typical burst frozen pipe can cost you anywhere from \$175 to \$450 to repair, with water damage repair costing upward of \$4,300. Adopt these four simple practices to prepare your plumbing system for the cold months ahead!

TOP 4 COLD-WEATHER TIPS



DISCONNECT OUTSIDE WATER HOSES AND INSULATE OUTSIDE FAUCETS

It's easy to forget about your outside faucet systems during the winter, but they need to be properly shut down and insulated so the pipes don't freeze, burst, or expand. First, detach your outside water hoses and turn off the hose bibs to shut off the water supply. Once hoses are detached, and the water supply is shut off, you should use facet covers to naturally trap the heat radiating from the pipes to further assist in freeze prevention.



INSULATE EXPOSED INDOOR PIPING

Each winter, a leader in plumbing home disasters is frozen pipes bursting. To avoid this plumbing nightmare, you should simply insulate exposed indoor piping. Using pipe insulation on any exposed piping located throughout a home's crawl space or attic area will help trap heat during periods of quick and intense freeze. Pipe insulation is relatively easy to find and typically requires just a few measured cuts to fit the specific length of the pipe.



EXAMINE AND CLEAN WATER HEATERS

Another plumbing tip to consider this fall is water heater inspections and cleanings to avoid system failure during times when you seriously don't want to run out of hot water. While this process may require the assistance of a plumber, water heater components, like the anode rod and pressure valve, should be inspected for wear and tear to ensure peak performance through the winter. You should also request a tank flush to remove sediment buildup that could impact performance.



INSPECT INDOOR PLUMBING FIXTURES AND REQUEST REPAIRS

Indoor plumbing fixtures also need attention before the winter comes, and it's important to inspect all smaller indoor fixtures. Showerheads, toilets, and sink faucets are common culprits of small leaks that can become quite a hassle during cooler months if piping starts to freeze.

Want to schedule a checkup or have additional questions on how to winterize your home this season?

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