

TO DRIP OR NOT

During a hard freeze, some people will let their water drip to keep the pipes from freezing. Remember, this will increase your water bill. The hot and cold water **only needs to trickle** to keep from freezing.

Water pipes are more likely to freeze if it's 20°F or colder.

Caution: If everyone in the district is leaving their faucet running then the district may not have enough water pressure for fighting fires. Consider the alternative, turn your water off and drain your pipes.

The District has reliable water and generator backup but problems can occur beyond its control so be prepared for a water outage:

Fill containers with water for drinking.

Fill the tub with water for flushing toilets.

Be Prepared for Power Outages

Know if your food in your freezer is safe to eat:

- Freeze a small container of water. The water level should be about half the width of an ice cube.
- After it freezes, place a penny or any coin on top of the ice in the container.
- If there is a prolonged power outage the ice will melt and the coin will now be at the bottom of the container. This means your food has defrosted and the food is no longer safe to eat.

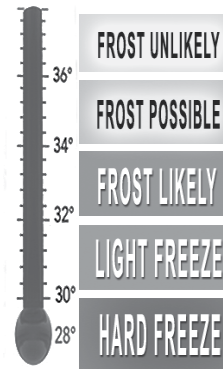


Don't forget to take care of your pets and plants.

Blackboard Connect is the official communication system for the District. Don't miss important messages - sign up now at www.postwoodmud.bbcportal.com/



**PREPARE FOR FREEZES
JUST AS YOU DO FOR HURRICANE SEASON**



Post Wood Municipal Utility District

If A Hard Freeze is Forecasted

Do you know how to protect your water pipes?

Tips to Help You Keep Your Water Pipes from Freezing



A gallon of water expands by as much as 9% when frozen, which can lead to cracking and/or breaking of water pipes during freezing temperatures since water lines do not have the ability to expand with the frozen water. Breaks and or cracks in water lines are typically not noticed until the ice inside the lines melts.

Even small cracks of 1/8 of an inch can result in up to 250 gallons or more per day of lost water which can cause flooding and other damage to your home.



Many homes in Post Wood sustained water damage from broken pipes in the freeze of 2021.

What to do BEFORE it gets cold:

- Wrap any exposed water pipes outside your home as well as any located in your attic, garage and those located near uninsulated walls.
- Consider purchasing insulation material for your outside pipes at any hardware store.
- Make sure that everyone in your house knows where the main water shut-off valve is located in your home. It is typically located on the same side of the house as your water meter.
- Show all household members how to turn the water off in case of a broken pipe or similar emergency.

Broken Pipes Can Do a Lot of Damage

Most homes in the District have water lines in the attic. Those water lines run down from the attic and through the walls to connect to the sinks, showers, water heater and washing machine. Broken pipes located in walls are often difficult to identify until signs of damage become visible, so pre-planning to prevent such damage is key.



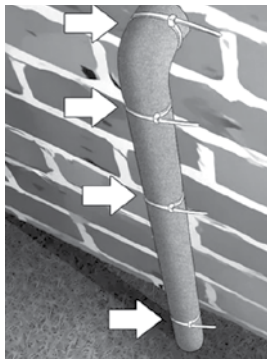
Wrapping Pipes

Exposed pipes, both in the attic and outside the home, are vulnerable to freezing when it gets very cold outside and wrapping your pipes can help prevent them from freezing.



- Pipe insulation should fit the pipe tightly. If the insulation is too large, it creates a large air space where sweating can occur and ice forms.
- Use a “pipe sleeve” or similar insulated material on exposed water pipes.
- Keep outer garage doors closed if there is a water heater, washing machine or water supply lines in or over the garage.

Preventing Exterior Pipes from Freezing



Keep exterior pipes from freezing by using polyethylene pipe insulation and duct tape.

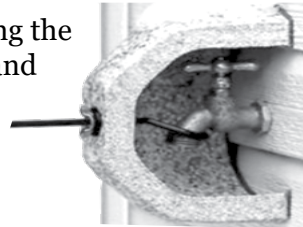
Secure the insulation with duct tape or cable ties to keep the insulation secure and prevent it from sliding off of your pipes.

Wrap duct tape around the base of the insulation 4-5 times and pull it tight to keep the insulation in place and to keep the insulation dry.

Attach cable ties by wrapping the plastic tie around the pipe and

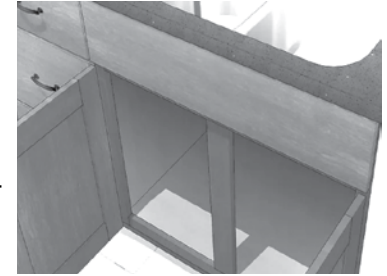
threading one end of the tie through the opening on the other end. Secure the tie by pulling firmly on the length that slides through the opening. Repeat this process for every faucet.

Don't pull so hard on your pipe that you end up ripping it out or cracking it. As long as the ties or tape keep the insulation from sliding around, it's should be adequate.



Interior Pipes

- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night during a hard freeze. Your heating bill might go up, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors where water lines are located to allow the warmer air in your home to circulate around the pipes to prevent freezing. (Don't forget to remove harmful cleaners under the sinks so they are out of the reach of children.)
- If your washing machine is in the garage or separate laundry room consider leaving the door open to allow for the warm air in your house to circulate to those attached rooms.



Disconnect and Drain Garden Hoses

Any water that remains in a garden hose in hard freeze conditions may freeze and expand causing holes to form in the hose and weaken its lining and possibly causing the supply pipe for that hose to burst as well.

- Prior to a hard freeze, disconnect your garden hose completely from the outside water spigot and remove any spray nozzle or sprinkler head attached to the hose.
- Unroll your hose to allow any remaining water to drain out of the hose.
- Fully extend the hose and straighten out every kink along the hose. This will remove any blockage of water in the garden hose and allow the water to flow freely.
- Wind the garden hose into a circular shape. This will prevent the hose from becoming bent or kinked for the duration of storage.

Protect your Irrigation System and Backflow Device from Freezing and Breaking



Directions on how to drain you irrigation system and protect you backflow device from freezing can be found on the Post Wood MUD web page at: <http://www.wdmtexas.com/districts-served/post-wood-mud/>

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