



WINTER'S HERE

Be Prepared

IS IT TOO LATE?

If you should experience frozen pipes, **NEVER USE A TORCH TO THAW**. The easiest and safest way to thaw a frozen pipe is to heat the room or wave a hair dryer on low heat along the pipe. Remember, the pipe may already be broken and, when the water is thawed, it will leak.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE
PORTLAND WATER DISTRICT



Maine's harsh winters wreak havoc on water meters, pipes, and fire hydrants. Portland Water District's emergency crews are busy responding to water main breaks and remind customers to protect their meters and internal plumbing system.

Frozen water meters and pipes lurk in unheated basements and drafty buildings. Unexpected costs associated with frozen meters and pipes can be easily avoided by taking a few simple precautions now.

ADOPT-A-HYDRANT

Help keep your family safe this winter by shoveling out your area fire hydrant so fire fighters can quickly access it.



EIGHT QUICK STEPS TO WARD OFF WINTER WOES

1. Have your furnace regularly serviced.
2. Know where your water Shut-Off valve is located.
3. Keep the name and emergency telephone number of your plumber handy.
4. Turn off outside faucets. Disconnect the hose.
5. Patch cracks and insulate holes near doors, windows, and walls by pipes and meters.
6. Inspect your plumbing.
7. Insulate water meters, pipes, and faucets in unheated areas.
8. Never completely shut off the heat when you are away. If you are planning to leave your home for an extended period of time, drain your pipes. If you don't drain your pipes, lower the thermostat, but never shut it off. The lack of heat can freeze pipes, causing flooding and damage when they eventually thaw.