

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Fort Scott Water Department What to Do When Pipes Freeze & Tips to Keep Pipes from Freezing



1. **Keep the Heat On.** Maintaining a setting above 50 degrees Fahrenheit is a good idea. This should provide enough heat to keep interior pipes from freezing.
2. **Allow Faucet to Drip.** Allow the faucet to drip slightly or let a thin stream of water run from a faucet while experiencing sub-zero weather keeps the water moving and can keep pipes from freezing.
3. **Keep Interior Doors Open.** Pipes are often located in cabinets. Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow air to circulate, keep all interior doors open to allow heat to circulate through the home and prevent pipes from freezing.
4. **Seal Up Cracks and Holes.** Eliminate drafts, caulk any holes, or cracks that exist near pipes, repair any broken windows, insulate, or seal basement and crawl spaces access points.
5. **Apply Heat.** When thawing out pipes with heat, **do not use** open flame sources, use radiant or forced air heat, but be prepared to shut water off in case the pipe begins leaking while its being thawed out. Be careful when applying heat to PVC and Poly pipes as they can become soft if too much heat is applied. Electrical Heating Tape may be an option to keep pipes from freezing but follow the product directions and safety procedures. **Do not** leave pipes unattended while thawing.
6. **Add Insulation.** Uninsulate pipes most susceptible to freezing. Pipes in areas that do not have proper insulation such as basements or attics may need extra insulation. Insulate pipes with foam rubber or fiberglass sleeves to help prevent freezing.
7. **Know Where to Shut Water Off.** Know where the master water valve is located inside your home. This will allow you to shut the water off should a line freeze and break. If one is not available at the home know who to call for assistance.

The typical symptom of a frozen water line is that one or more of the water fixtures in a building or a residence will not provide water. If some faucets are dry and others still work, the customer should contact a plumber of their choice to assist in thawing of the line. If all faucets in a residence or building are dry, the customer may contact the Water Department for further checking. From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., you may call the Water Office at 620-223-0550, or after-hours call the Water Plant at 620-223-5160 or Police Dispatch at 620-223-1700.