



## HOW TO PREPARE FOR FREEZING WEATHER

Freezing weather can cause significant damage to properties. Taking preventative measures can save you from costly repairs. In the event of water damage, **call Forge Restoration** to mitigate the damage and begin the restoration process.

### PROTECTING YOUR PIPES:



- **Insulate Exposed Pipes:**
  - Wrap pipes in unheated areas (attics, crawl spaces, and exterior walls) with insulation sleeves or heat tape.
- **Seal Cracks and Openings:**
  - Seal any cracks or openings in your home's foundation and exterior walls to prevent cold air from entering.
- **Let Faucets Drip:**
  - When temperatures are expected to drop significantly, let faucets drip with cold water. This keeps water moving and prevents freezing.
- **Open Cabinet Doors:**
  - Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air to circulate around pipes.

### EXTERIOR PREPARATION:



- **Disconnect and Drain Hoses:**
  - Disconnect garden hoses and drain outdoor faucets.
- **Clean Gutters and Downspouts:**
  - Clear leaves and debris to prevent ice dams from forming.
- **Trim Trees and Shrubs:**
  - Trim any branches that could fall on your property due to ice or snow accumulation.

### DURING FREEZING WEATHER:



- **Maintain Consistent Temperature:**
  - Keep your thermostat set to a consistent temperature, even when you're away.
- **Monitor for Leaks:**
  - Check for any signs of leaks or water damage.

### IF PIPES FREEZE:



- **Shut Off Water:**
  - Immediately shut off the main water supply to prevent further damage if a pipe bursts.
- **Call a Plumber:**
  - Contact a licensed plumber to thaw frozen pipes and repair any damage.