



The HOME in Winter

Be Prepared

- Have a small supply of non perishable, easy-to-prepare foods
- Keep extra supplies of essential medication in case it is difficult to get to the doctor/pharmacy
- Have an adequate supply of fuel for heating/cooking and if possible a suitable alternative should the main supply fail
- Have batteries for torches in the event of power cuts
- Have candles and matches. Candles should always be placed away from draughts in proper candleholders. Never leave a burning candle unattended
- Have a water container to ensure a supply of drinking water
- Know how to turn off your water supply
- Keep mobile phones charged up - have local emergency numbers in your phone
- Have a suitable snow shovel (but any shovel or spade will do)



Be Prepared - avoid Frozen Pipes

Ensure all exposed pipes are adequately insulated. This includes pipes in the attic even where the attic floor has been well insulated

- Insulate around an outside tap
- Leave a light on in the attic
- Open attic trap door to allow heat in
- Leave heating on for longer periods at lower settings
- Warmth offers the best protection against frozen pipes so keep your house warm



Frozen mains water supply

- If your supply is frozen, be cautious with the use of heating systems, washing machines or other water-dependent appliances or facilities
- If in doubt, contact a qualified plumber for advice

Water Leaks

- Water supply in vacant premises and holiday homes should be shut off and drained down in preparation for winter
- Keyholders - check premises regularly for possible leaks
- If a leak is detected:
 - * Turn off water supply –stop valve is usually under the kitchen sink
 - * Turn on cold taps to drain the system
 - * Turn off central heating
 - * Turn off electricity supply at main fuse board if leak is near electrical appliances
 - * Call a qualified plumber and/or electrician

