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## Protect your home from broken pipes

*Denver Water offers “deep freeze” tips*

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**DENVER — Feb. 6, 2014** — The same natural forces that trigger cold-weather breaks in Denver Water's more than 3,000 miles of underground mains can cause pipes to burst in your own home or business. With record low temperatures in the metro area, Denver Water has some tips to avoid the expense and inconvenience of frozen, broken water pipes:

- Know where your water shut-off valve is before a break occurs, so you can quickly shut off the water and call a plumber before extensive damage occurs.
- Keep open cabinet doors leading to exposed pipes (such as access doors for sinks), so that household air can warm them. The natural flow of warmer air will help combat many problems.
- If you have an attached garage, keep its doors shut. Occasionally, plumbing is routed through this unheated space, leaving it vulnerable to winter's worst.
- Crack a faucet farthest from the place where your water enters the house. A very slow drip will keep water molecules moving, reducing the chance that pipes will freeze. Place a bucket underneath the faucet so the water can be saved for other household uses.
- Keep your thermostat set above 65 degrees when leaving your house or business for several days.

If you think a pipe has already frozen, do the following:

- Don't wait for nature to take its course: Thaw the pipe as soon as possible or call a plumber for help.
- If you do it yourself, shut off the water or test the shut-off valve. You don't want water suddenly gushing from the pipe when it thaws.
- Remember: When thawing things, slower is better. Pipes warmed too fast may break. A hair dryer directed at the frozen area of the pipe is appropriate. A blow torch is not.

If a pipe breaks in your home or business, please call a plumber.

More tips are available on Denver Water's [website](#), or by calling 303-893-2444.

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*Denver Water proudly serves high-quality water and promotes its efficient use to 1.3 million people in the city of Denver and many surrounding suburbs. Established in 1918, the utility is a public agency funded by water rates, new tap fees and the sale of hydropower, not taxes. It is Colorado's oldest and largest water utility. For more information, visit [www.denverwater.org](http://www.denverwater.org) and follow us on [Twitter](#).*

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