

Ulster County Winter Watch

**Winter is coming ● Stay Self-Reliant
Help Your Neighbors**

Protecting Water Pipes

To prevent the mess and aggravation of frozen water pipes, protect your home by following these simple steps:

Before cold weather –

- Locate and insulate pipes most likely to freeze – typically those near outer walls, in crawl spaces, or in the attic.
- Wrap pipes in UL approved heat tape.
- Seal any holes that allow cold air in where pipes are located.
- Shut off and drain pipes leading to outside faucets.

When its cold –

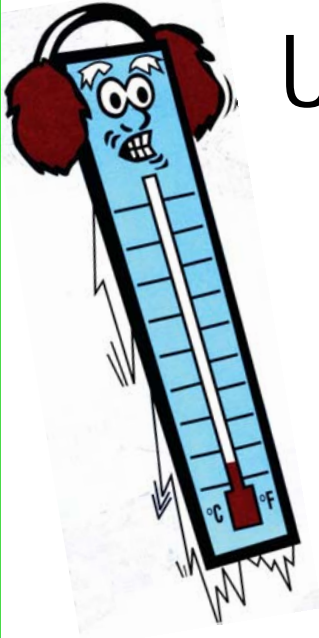
- Let hot and cold water trickle at night from a faucet on an outside wall.
- Open cabinet doors to let more heat get to un-insulated pipes under a sink near an outside wall.
- Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees.
- If you are going away, 1) have someone check your home daily to make sure the heat is still on, and 2) drain your water system.

If pipes freeze –

- Make sure you and your family know how to shut the water off in case pipes burst. Stopping the water minimizes damage. Call a plumber and your insurance agent.
- Never try to thaw pipes with an open flame or torch
- Always be careful about potential electric shock around standing water



www.co.ulster.ny.us for future advisories.



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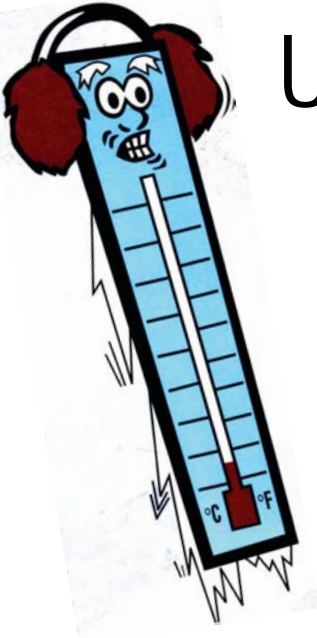
When the Lights Go Out

If you loose electric power during the winter follow these tips:

1. Call your utility to report the outage. Turn off and unplug lights and appliances to prevent a circuit overload when power is restored. Leave one light on to determine when power is back on.
2. To help prevent freezing pipes, turn on water faucets slightly.
3. Protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning:
 - a. DO NOT operate generators indoors.
 - b. DO NOT use charcoal to cook indoors.
 - c. DO NOT use your gas oven to heat your home.
 - d. Make sure fuel space heaters are used with proper ventilation.
4. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to prevent food spoilage.



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Generator Safety

Follow these safety guidelines when operating a generator:

1. Before installing a generator, be sure to properly disconnect from your utility electric service. If possible have your generator installed by a qualified electrician.
2. Run generators outside, downwind of structures. NEVER run a generator indoors. Deadly carbon monoxide can fill the home. Install a carbon monoxide detector.
3. Fuel spilled on a hot generator can cause an explosion. Shut off the generator and let it cool before refilling.
4. Do not exceed the rated capacity of your generator. Overloading the generator can damage the generator; the appliances connected to it and may even cause a fire.
5. Keep children away from generators at all times.



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