

**Good Hands® Advice**  
Tips to help you be prepared and informed



# Protect Your Home in the Cold Weather

When arctic air brings extreme cold and low temperatures to a region, it's best that homeowners pay special attention to areas of their house that may be more vulnerable to wintry weather. Pipes can freeze in as little as 24 hours even with the heat in the home being maintained, and freezing and bursting pipes can cause significant damage. Here are some useful tips to help you protect your home and property during cold weather:

- Keep the house heated to a minimum of 18 degrees Celsius. The temperature inside the walls where pipes are located can be substantially colder than the walls themselves. A temperature lower than 18 degrees will not keep the inside walls from freezing.
- Identify the location for the main water shutoff in your home. Find out how it works in case you have to use it.
- During extremely cold weather, consider opening hot and cold faucets enough to let them drip slowly. Keeping water moving within the pipes may prevent freezing.
- If you are going to be away, drain the pipes. This can be done by first shutting off the main water line and then draining all lines by opening the taps and closing them once the water runs out. Also flush toilets to remove water from tanks. Be sure to have someone check on your home while you're away to ensure heat is being maintained as well.
- Make sure all hoses are disconnected from outside spigots.
- If you discover that pipes are frozen, don't wait for them to burst. Take measures to safely thaw them immediately (such as wrapping pipes in towels soaked in boiling water, or using hot air from a hair dryer - while being careful to stay away from standing water to avoid the risk of shock), or call a plumber for assistance.
- If your pipes burst, first turn off the water and then mop up spills to prevent the water from doing more damage than it already has.
- Make temporary repairs and take other steps to protect your property from further damage, such as removing any carpet or furniture that can be further damaged from seepage.

For more information on how you can protect your home from damage caused by extreme weather, **visit [allstate.ca](http://allstate.ca), contact your local Allstate Insurance Agency, or call 1-800-allstate.**

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The Good Hands Network®

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