Protect Your Pipes Before the First Hard Freeze

Georgia winters are mild most days, but one night in the low 20s can split a pipe. Plumbing in crawl spaces, attics, garages, and exterior walls is most at risk.

Fall Checklist: Do These Before December

Check them off as you go

- [ ] **Disconnect garden hoses**
  A connected hose traps water that can freeze back into the spigot and crack the pipe inside your wall.
- [ ] **Insulate exposed pipes**
  Wrap pipes in crawl spaces, attics, and garages with foam pipe sleeves from any hardware store.
- [ ] **Test your main shutoff valve**
  Make sure it turns easily and every adult in the home knows where it is. A stuck valve is worth fixing now.
- [ ] **Service your water heater**
  Flush out sediment and check the relief valve. Your heater works hardest from December to February.
- [ ] **Cover outdoor spigots**
  Use insulated faucet covers. If outside faucets have an indoor shutoff, close it and drain the line.
- [ ] **Seal up the crawl space**
  Close foundation vents for winter and seal gaps where cold air hits pipes. Reopen the vents in spring.
- [ ] **Winterize your irrigation**
  Shut off and drain sprinkler lines, and insulate the backflow preventer that sits above ground.
- [ ] **Fix drips and slow leaks**
  Small leaks get worse as pipes expand and contract in cold snaps. Have them repaired before winter.

Where is my main water shutoff?
Check the meter box near the curb, where the water line enters your crawl space or basement, or in the garage near the water heater.

WHEN TEMPERATURES DROP

Your Freeze Night Game Plan

When overnight lows dip into the 20s

- **Drip faucets on outside walls.** A slow trickle from hot and cold keeps water moving.
- **Keep the heat at 55°F or higher,** day and night, even in unused rooms.
- **Leave interior doors open** so heat circulates to every room.
- **Open sink cabinet doors** in kitchens and baths so warm air reaches the pipes.
- **Keep garage doors closed,** especially if water lines run through the garage.
- **Check faucet covers** are still in place after wind or rain.

If a Pipe Freezes

Signs: a faucet gives only a trickle or nothing at all, or you see frost on an exposed pipe.

1. Leave the faucet open so water can flow as ice melts.
2. Warm the pipe gently with a hair dryer or heating pad, working back from the faucet.
3. **Never use a torch or any open flame.**
4. Check other faucets for more frozen spots.
5. Can't find or reach the frozen section? Call us before it bursts.

If a Pipe Bursts

Act fast. Every minute counts against water damage.

1. **Shut off the main water valve** right away.
2. Stay clear of water near outlets, appliances, or the electrical panel.
3. Open faucets to drain what is left in the lines.
4. Photograph the damage for your insurance claim.
5. Call our 24/7 emergency line:

404-456-1144

Traveling this winter? Keep the heat at 55°F or higher, set your water heater to vacation mode, and consider shutting off the main valve. Ask a neighbor to check on the house during cold snaps.

Want a pro to handle it?

Our licensed team can winterize your home, insulate exposed lines, and replace worn valves before the cold sets in.

404-456-1144

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