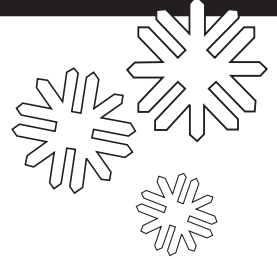




First day of winter? Protect your pipes!

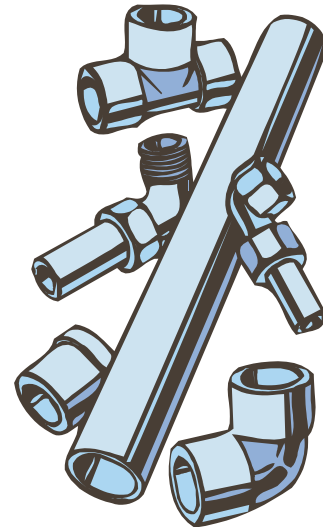
December 21

marks the first official day of winter.



It's a perfect time for homeowners to make sure that they've taken steps to prevent their water pipes from freezing and breaking. Here are a few simple tips to help avoid an inconvenient and costly water pipe break. They are drawn from "*Plain Talk About Drinking Water*," an American Water Works Association book by Dr. James M. Symons.

- Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses. Detaching the hose allows the water to drain from the pipe.
- Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas of your home.
- Make sure you locate your master valve in case pipes freeze and rupture. The most common locations in your house or apartment are where the water supply enters your home, near your clothes-washer hookup, or near your water heater.
- Check with your local water provider to determine if you or the utility is responsible for keeping the water meter from freezing.
- Leave a small stream of water flowing in the bathroom during the most severe cold spells. This water can be collected to water plants or wash dishes to prevent waste.



DWSD supplies high-quality drinking water to 4.3 million people who live and work in Detroit and 125 other communities in southeast Michigan. The Department provides wastewater services to three million people who live and work in Detroit and 76 other southeast Michigan communities.

