

The Port Washington Water Utility would like to remind everyone how to avoid freezing water pipes during this especially cold weather by remembering these suggestions.

Keep cabinets open

Opening cabinet doors in the kitchen and bathroom can help circulate warmer air around the plumbing, according to the American Red Cross.

Let water drip from faucet

In frigid conditions, allow water to drip from a faucet served by exposed pipes, the American Red Cross suggests.

"Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing," the Red Cross said.

Keep thermostat at set temperature

While some might turn down the thermostat at night, the American Red Cross suggests that it is best to keep the temperature consistent during the day and night.

"By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst," the Red Cross said.

If you plan to be away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

Eliminate drafts

Check throughout the home for areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas of the house.

"Take measures to prevent the flow of cold air in these areas," Horizon Services said.

Common unheated areas to check in your house include basements, attics, garages and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets.

"Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated. A hot water supply line can freeze just as a cold water supply line can freeze if water is not running through the pipe and the water temperature becomes cold," Horizon Services added.

If a faucet or pipe ends up freezing inside the house, it can be thawed by using an electric hair dryer, wrapping an electric heat pad around the pipe or soaking towels in hot water and wrapping them around the frozen portion of the pipe(s). Make sure to start thawing closest to the faucet first and that the faucet is turned on so that melted water can drip out.

In cases where the location of the frozen pipe cannot be located or it is not accessible, it is best to call a licensed plumber.