

## If the worst happens - don't panic!

### If a pipe freezes (no water comes out):

- Turn off the water supply coming in to your home at the stop tap
- Open the affected tap to allow the water to escape as it thaws
- Slowly thaw the pipe with hot water bottles or a hairdryer on a warm setting
- Never use a naked flame or blowtorch to thaw the pipe.

### If a pipe bursts:

- Turn off the water supply coming in to your home at the stop tap and switch off your boiler
- Open all your taps to drain the system quickly
- Soak up escaping water with towels
- Call a qualified plumber – visit [watersafe.org.uk](http://watersafe.org.uk)
- If water has leaked near your electrics switch them off at the mains.

While you look after your homes, your local water company will be doing their bit to find and fix leaks on their water supply network. If you spot a leak when out and about, please report it to your water company.

Wrapping up for winter isn't just about looking after your home and pipes.

It's also about making sure you, your family, friends and neighbours keep fit and warm and stay safe on the roads.

The Wrap up for winter campaign is part of a wider Government initiative to help everyone stay healthy and safe this winter. Find out more at [metoffice.gov.uk/getreadyforwinter](http://metoffice.gov.uk/getreadyforwinter).



**Met Office**

Sign up for weather alerts at [metoffice.gov.uk](http://metoffice.gov.uk)



Search for trusted plumbers with accredited businesses in your area at [watersafe.org.uk](http://watersafe.org.uk)



Protect Your Home

**Don't forget to keep this leaflet handy for a stress-free winter.**



**As temperatures begin to fall,  
it's time to wrap up your home  
as well as yourself**

## Wrap up for winter

As temperatures begin to fall, it's time to wrap up your home as well as yourself.

Lagging water pipes and insulating your home will prevent pipes from freezing and bursting in cold weather.

So avoid the winter blues this year and don't waste time and money mopping up floods and going without water.

### Safeguard your bank balance and water supply by following these simple steps to protect your pipework:

- Keep your pipes toasty – wrap up your pipes and water tanks with lagging. Your local DIY store should have everything you need
- Fix dripping taps – even a small trickle can result in a frozen pipe
- Find your home's stop tap - so you can turn off the water supply quickly if a pipe freezes or bursts. Most are under the kitchen sink, or sometimes in a cupboard, garage or cellar
- Leave the heating on low – keep the central heating on during cold spells, even if you go away, to prevent coming home to burst pipes and floods
- Check your central heating boiler has been serviced
- Keep the name of a plumber handy – it's a good idea to find an accredited plumbing business. Type in your postcode at [watersafe.org.uk](http://watersafe.org.uk) to find the nearest qualified plumber to you
- Turn off the water at the stop tap if a building is going to be empty for a while, such as offices and schools. Think about draining down the system
- Keep a separate supply of emergency bottled water to hand.

## How to protect your home

Follow a few simple steps to stay safe and warm and ensure a stress-free winter.

