



SNIPeF

SCOTTISH AND NORTHERN IRELAND
PLUMBING EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION

Advice for Freezing Weather

**What to do if you get
a frozen or burst pipe**



*delivering higher standards
improving customer care*

Dealing With Adverse Weather

There are many ways that you can prevent cold weather from causing damage to your home and contents. This document details some important measures you can take to avoid frost damage and what to do if you have a burst or frozen pipe.

Keep Your House Warm

Try and avoid burst or frozen pipes by keeping your home warm during the day and at night. In particularly cold weather keep the heating on during the night at a low temperature.

Heating the Roof Space

In the event of very low temperatures it is a good idea to open the hatch to the roof space (if you have one). Although this may add slightly to your heating bills, it will give additional protection to any water tanks or pipes in the roof space.

Going on Holiday

If you leave your house empty for any period in winter, turn off your mains stop valve and contact a SNIPEF Licensed Plumbing Business to drain both the hot and cold water system. You should also ask your SNIPEF Licensed Business to check your heating system.

If Your Water or Heating Pipes Become Frozen

If you have a traditional heating system i.e. it's not a mains fed combi boiler, turn off the central heating system and any immersion heater and let any solid fuel fire die down.

If you have a heating system which has a hot water cylinder do not open the hot taps as the hot water cylinder may collapse if the pipes feeding it are frozen.

After you have shut off your heating system, open all cold taps to drain the system and collect water in your bath for washing and WC flushing.

If you have a combi boiler, and it's still providing heat you can continue to use it. You should, if the water supply is frozen on the incoming mains, shut off your mains stop valve. This is generally located at the incoming supply pipe to your home, usually in the kitchen. Thereafter open all cold taps to drain the system and collect water in your bath for washing and WC flushing.

Keep your kitchen and bathroom taps turned on even after you have turned off the water supply. This will allow pipe work when defrosting, drain in to the sink, bath & wash basin etc

Contact a SNIPEF Licensed Plumbing Business at the earliest opportunity.

If You Get a Burst Pipe

- **Turn off the water at the mains stop valve**
- **Switch off the electricity at the mains**
- **Switch off any water heater**
- **Turn off the central heating system**
- **Let any solid fuel fire die down**
- **Open all taps to drain your system and collect water in your bath for washing and WC flushing**
- **Warn neighbours who may suffer damage**
- **Call a SNIPEF Licensed Plumbing Business as soon as possible**

Don't Forget to...

Find the location of your mains water stop valve.

Arrange for someone to have access to your property while you're away from home.

Keep your home warm day and night during particularly cold weather.

Information and Contacts

For further information about the SNIPEF Approved Certifier of Construction Scheme please contact any of the following:



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