AVOID COSTLY REPAIRS

If a homeowner's meter freezes, and it is located inside the customer's home or crawl space, the homeowner is responsible for replacing or repairing the meter. With a little attention and basic maintenance, you can help prevent pipes and meters from freezing in your home.

The cost to replace a meter is based on the meter size:

Meter Size	Cost to replace
5/8" meter	$90
3/4" meter	$100
1" meter	$150

To learn more, visit us online at www.pennsylvaniaamwater.com or call 1-800-565-7292.

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Cold Weather Tips

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Frozen pipes can wreak havoc and require costly repairs and cleanup. To help protect your pipes in cold winter weather, keep these helpful tips in mind.

Before cold weather sets in:

- Know what areas of your home, such as basements, crawl spaces, unheated rooms and outside walls, are most vulnerable to freezing.
- Search for pipes that are not insulated, or that pass through unheated spaces such as crawlspaces, basements, or garages. Wrap them with pipe insulation available at hardware stores.
- If you have heat tape installed on exposed pipes, you need to check it to make sure it is still operational. Inspect the tape for cracks or fraying. Make sure it is installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Make sure everyone in your household knows where your main water shut-off valve is. Check the shut-off valve annually to make sure it is working properly. If a pipe freezes or bursts, shut the water off immediately.
- Make sure the water to your outdoor faucets is shut off inside your house (via a turnoff valve), and that lines are drained.
- To save wear and tear on your cooling system, drain any hoses and air conditioner pipes and check for excess water pooled in equipment. If your home is heated by a hot water radiator, bleed the valves by opening them slightly. Close them when water appears.
- Keep your water heater temperature around 120 degrees and install inexpensive low-flow shower heads to reduce hot water use. Lowering the temperature to 120 degrees would reduce water heating costs by 6 to 10 percent.
- Turn off and drain your irrigation systems.
- If no one will be home for an extended period of time during extreme winter weather, you should consider turning your main valve off altogether and hiring a plumber to drain your system. That way, if your furnace quits working, there will be no water in your pipes to freeze. Please note: there would be a reconnection fee to turn the water back on to your property.

When temperatures fall below zero:

- Allow a small trickle of water to run overnight to keep pipes from freezing. The cost of the extra water is low compared to the cost to repair a broken pipe.
- Open cabinet doors to expose pipes to warmer room temperatures to help keep them from freezing.

If your pipes freeze:

- Shut off the water immediately. Don't attempt to thaw frozen pipes unless the water is shut off. Freezing can often cause unseen cracks in pipes or joints that will leak when thawed.
- Apply heat to the frozen pipe by warming the air around it, or by applying heat directly to a pipe. You can use a hair dryer, space heater, or hot water. Be sure not to leave space heaters unattended, and avoid the use of kerosene heaters or open flames.
- Once the pipes have thawed, turn the water back on slowly and check for cracks and leaks.

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