



How to help prevent frozen water pipes and meters

When below freezing temperatures are sustained over a few days, water pipes and meters that are close to cold air may freeze. Brainerd Public Utilities (BPU) urges customers to take the necessary steps to prevent water pipes and meter from freezing. Property owners are responsible for protecting both water pipes and the water meter from damage. Frozen water meters and water pipes can burst and/or stop water service and may be expensive to repair or replace. Preventing pipes and the meter from freezing is easier than trying to thaw them. BPU offers these money saving suggestions:

Make frequent use of your water supply:

When outside temperatures remain below freezing, it's less expensive to run your faucet regularly than for you to repair a frozen or burst pipe. Running your water at a pencil-sized stream (1/4 gallon/minute) will help keeping pipes from freezing; even running water for extended times periodically will help, for example, flushing toilets more often or washing a load of clothes every day. No adjustment will be given to the customer on their utility bill to run water, unless BPU has specifically told the customer to do so.

Eliminate cold drafts near water pipes:

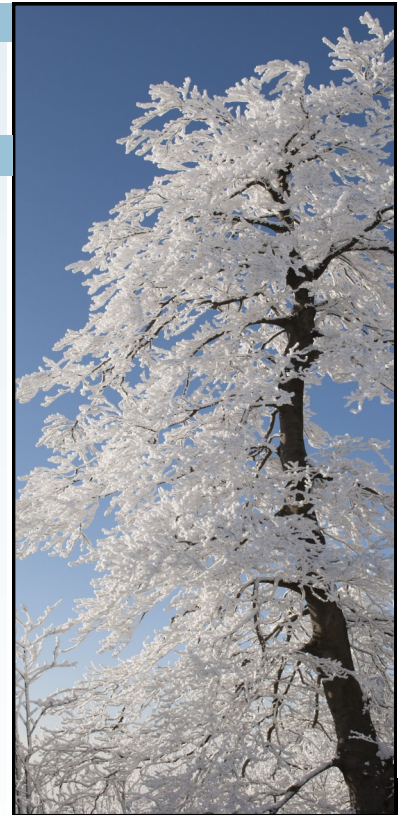
Tightly close doors and windows to the outside. Eliminate drafts from crawl spaces.

Provide warmth to the water pipes: Open the door to the room where the pipes are

located to allow warmth to circulate. Wrap pipes in insulation or heat tape. If kitchen or bathroom sink is located against an outside wall, insulate the wall. Open cabinet door below the sink to allow warm air to reach pipe. If you are going to be away from your home for extended period of time, shut off the water supply to your home.

How to prevent a frozen water meter: It is colder near the floor and along the block wall of a basement than at the ceiling, so make sure warm air is allowed to circulate around your meter. If meter is in a separate room, leave the door open to this room to allow warmth to circulate. If meter is in a cabinet, open the cabinet door.

How to thaw frozen water pipes: The pipes are frozen if no water comes from your faucets when you turn them on. Most likely the pipes nearest a wall, door, window, or along the floor are frozen. Start by opening a faucet near the frozen pipe to release any vapor from the melting ice and so that you will know when the water starts flowing again. Begin warming the pipes nearest the faucet and work toward the frozen section. Blow warm air on the pipe using a hair dryer. **Do not leave the dryer unattended or allow it to overheat. Do NOT use a blowtorch or open flame to warm pipes. This is a fire hazard and could cause an explosion.**



Flushable Doesn't Mean Flushable

What can flushable wipes do?

- They clog pumps and pipe and can cause blockage.
- They cause sewer overflows (Expensive to repair this damage)
- They can cause sewer backups into homes.

Why is this happening?

- Improper labeling and false advertising of the word "Flushable".
- Companies blame consumers.
- Many wipes that are flushed anyway.

Security Lighting

BPU offers a security lighting program. Security lighting is available to residential, commercial, and industrial customers. BPU maintains the security light. This service is offered for a monthly fee of \$12.00 plus tax per security light. Call us today to sign up for this program at 218-829-2193.





2022 ENERGY REBATES

This rebate offer can be changed or withdrawn at any time without any further notice. Brainerd Public Utilities does not guarantee that a specific level of energy or cost savings will result from the implementation of energy efficiency measures or the use of products funded under this program. To download rebate forms, please go to www.bpu.org. If you have any questions, please call 218-825-3203.



ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCE REBATES

Dishwasher	\$35
Clothes Washer (Must have Electric Water Heater)	\$35
Electric Clothes Dryer	\$35
Refrigerator	\$35
Freezer	\$35
Dehumidifier	\$20
Room/Window A/C	\$35
Central Air Conditioning Tune Up (one rebate every 2 years)	\$35

ADDITIONAL ELECTRICAL REBATES

Central A/C - minimum 14.5 SEER	\$200-\$350
Mini split/ductless A/C	\$250
Forced Air Furnace or Air Handler with ECM Motor	\$200
ECM Replacement Motor	\$100
Forced Air Furnace with ECM/ASHP Combo	\$375
Forced Air Furnace or Air handler with ECM/CAC Combo	\$375
Heat Pump Water Htr<55 gal	\$250
Air Source Heat Pump - minimum 14.5 SEER	\$250
Geothermal/Ground Source Heat Pump	\$100/ton

EMAILING OF BILLS



Brainerd Public Utilities now offers paperless billing! Please go to our website www.bpu.org and sign up for e-bills through "Pay Your Bill" or call our business office at 218-829-3200 and we can assist you.