

Cold Weather Home Protection Checklist

Before the Freeze (Preparation)

- Locate your main water shut-off valve and confirm how to turn it off
- Insulate exposed pipes (attic, garage, crawl spaces, exterior walls)
- Disconnect and drain all outdoor hoses
- Cover outdoor spigots with insulated covers
- Shut off exterior water lines if possible

Irrigation & Backflow Systems

- Turn OFF irrigation controller
- Open Double Checks, RPZs, and irrigation valves to drain water
- Ensure no standing water remains in the system
- Review guides: [Winterizing your Backflow RPZ](#) / [Winterizing your Backflow DCA](#)

Home Prep

- Seal drafts around doors and windows
- Close blinds or curtains at night to retain heat
- Keep garage doors closed if water lines run through garage
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Prepare emergency kit (water, flashlights, batteries, non-perishable food)

During the Freeze (Action)

- Set thermostat to 65°F or higher, even if away
- Drip both hot and cold faucets, especially on exterior walls
- Open kitchen and bathroom sink cabinets
- Run ceiling fans in reverse (clockwise)
- Use space heaters safely and never leave unattended

If You're Leaving Town

- Leave heat on
- Shut off main water supply if gone for an extended period
- Ask a neighbor to check on your home during extreme cold

If a Pipe Freezes

- Shut off main water supply immediately
- Thaw pipes slowly using warm, water-soaked towels
- Contact a licensed plumber if damage is suspected

A few preventative steps can help avoid costly repairs during a Texas freeze. Questions? The Kindred Homes team is here to help.