

Do your pipes need a hug?

Don't leave your pipes out in the cold this winter.
A simple piece of lagging will protect you from bursts and expensive repair bills.



Show your pipes you care by following these simple steps.

If you need any more help or information, visit www.unitedutilities.com

Preventing bursts

- **Tanks and cisterns** - Make sure they are insulated.
- **Dripping taps** - Replace washers in dripping taps or ball valves, otherwise the overflow pipe may freeze and could cause flooding.
- **Pipes** - All pipes in cold and draughty areas should be insulated, particularly those in out-buildings, lofts or along outside walls.
- **Internal stop tap** - Make sure you know where your stop tap is and that it's easy to turn.
- **Sheds, garages and outside taps** - Turn off the stop tap and any supply pipes to outbuildings during winter, and drain the supply pipe if possible.

What to do...

- **If a pipe freezes but does not split**, thaw it very slowly by using a hot water bottle or a hair dryer starting at the end nearest the tap. Do not use a naked flame.
- **If you are going away during winter**, even for just a few days, turn off the stop tap and either leave the heating on low or drain the whole system.
- **If a pipe bursts**
 - Turn off the stop tap. If this doesn't stop the escaping water then turn on all the cold water taps and drain the system as quickly as possible.
 - Do not turn on hot water taps until the central heating or immersion heater has been switched off.
 - If the central heating uses solid fuel, let the fire die out.
 - Call a plumber.

