Protect Pipes from Freezing

- Make sure and disconnect any outside water hoses and turn off the water to outside faucets.
- Drain the water from pipes that lead to outside faucets.
- Cover all outside faucets with insulation kits; these can be found in any local hardware store. Leave them in place all winter.
- If your kitchen sink is on an outside wall, cover exposed water pipes with foam insulation sleeves. You can cut these to any desired length, then they can be slipped onto the pipes.
- If a deep freeze is imminent, allow a trickle of hot and cold water to flow from faucets located along outside walls.
- Leave sink cabinet doors open so warm air can circulate around the pipes as much as possible.
- Use insulation to seal air leaks around windows and doors near water pipes.
- For added protection, wrap thermostat-controlled heat cables around water pipes that are prone to freezing. Remember: heat cables are a heat source; keep flammables away. Additionally, heat cables are only a temporary solution. Contact a plumber for a permanent solution to freeze-prone pipes.
- Insulate crawl spaces and the water pipes that run through them. Do the same for attics, garages and unheated areas of your home or business.