

# PREPARING YOUR BUILDINGS FOR WINTER

Winterizing your buildings for the colder winter months is a vital part of ensuring that your buildings will be ready for business once the snow melts and your operations begin again in the spring. Freezing temperatures and frozen pipes or heavy snows and collapsed roofs are just a few of the dangers that your buildings face throughout the winter months.

## Preventing Frozen Pipes

When the temperature drops, water filled pipes have the potential to freeze and burst.

Consider following these safety tips to prevent an unwanted mess.

- Insulate exterior pipes, and those located in the basement, attic, and places prone to freezing with a sleeve or UL-listed heat tape or cable.
- If you're staying on the property, let the faucets drip at a slow trickle throughout the night and periods of extreme cold, this could reduce chances of pipes freezing.
- Install freeze warning devices to receive an alert when temperatures drop below a set temperature so you can take action before the pipes freeze solid.
- If you'll be closing the property for the winter, turn off the water to the property, remove water from the lines and replace water in toilet and traps with RV grade antifreeze as another preventative.

**Should your pipes freeze, use caution when trying to thaw them out. Running warm water and applying heat with a hair dryer or heating pad should thaw exposed pipes. Do not use an open flame to try to thaw pipes. Sparks will fly and can start a fire. If you can't get them thawed, call your local plumber for help before they burst .**

## Rodent Damage

When it gets too cold outside, rodents will seek warmer locations to hide out in the winter. Don't let your property become theirs!

- Seal up all cracks, windows, doors, and vents into and out of the property.
- Ensure all food items are removed from the property and nothing is left behind for rodents to nibble on.
- Place mothballs or dryer sheets in areas rodents may use as entrances to your property.



## Snow Load Safety

While the drifts of snow on your building may look harmless, you have to consider the type of snow and how much the weight of those drifts are adding to your roofs' snow load. Wet heavy snow or melting snow is much heavier than white fluffy snow. Ensure employees are properly trained in snow removal techniques and are using tools specifically made for snow removal to gently scrape snow off of the roofs.

**Use caution when dropping snow off of roofs as not to drop heavy loads onto yourself or others around you.**



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