

Home Tips for dealing with Extreme Cold:

The National Weather Service has issued a Wind Chill Warning for the Chicago area. Dangerously cold wind chills of 20 to 30 degrees below zero are expected on Tuesday with chill readings as low as 55 below zero expected Tuesday night through Thursday morning. Frostbite and hypothermia can occur if precautions are not taken. Make sure to dress appropriately if you must venture outside. Remain indoors if possible.

Prevent water pipes from freezing by following these simple suggestions:

- Keep garage doors closed if you have water supply lines in your garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- Know how to turn your water OFF if a pipe bursts. Use a hair dryer to thaw frozen pipes; never an open flame or torch.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home. Set your thermostat to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

Heating Systems Tips, Ways to Stay Warm: Heating Systems are not designed for this extreme weather!

1.) Raise the temperature 2 to 4 degrees above normal in your home the day before the cold weather hits. 2) Take all programmable thermostats out of setback mode, and set on a permanent HOLD. 3) Replace furnace filter. 4) Limit opening exterior doors as much as possible. 5.) Make sure air vents and radiators are not blocked or obstructed. 6) If you have a 90%+ furnace or boiler, you must keep the intake and exhaust clear of ice and snow. Do not go on the roof to clear the pipe. 7.) Make soup, boil water or spices to warm up a room and add humidity. 8.) Snuggle under blankets!! 9.) Never use an oven or stovetop to heat your home. 10.) Use of space heaters is not recommended. If you must use a space heater, make sure it is UL certified and located at least three feet from anything that could ignite. 11.) If using extension cords, make sure they are UL certified and only connected to one appliance. Cords should never be placed under a carpet. 12.) Dress in plenty of warm layers inside.

Stay warm, stay safe!!