

# Frozen Water Pipes

The pipes in your home can freeze in cold weather. This can leave you with no water or cause your pipes to burst, leading to expensive property damage. Take steps to protect your home by learning what you can do to prevent your pipes from freezing.

- Understanding your water service pipe
- Steps you can take today to prepare your pipes for winter
- What to do when the temperature drops well below zero

## Understanding your water service pipe

Please see attached diagram which depicts ownership and responsibilities for individual services.

## Steps you can take today to prepare your pipes for winter

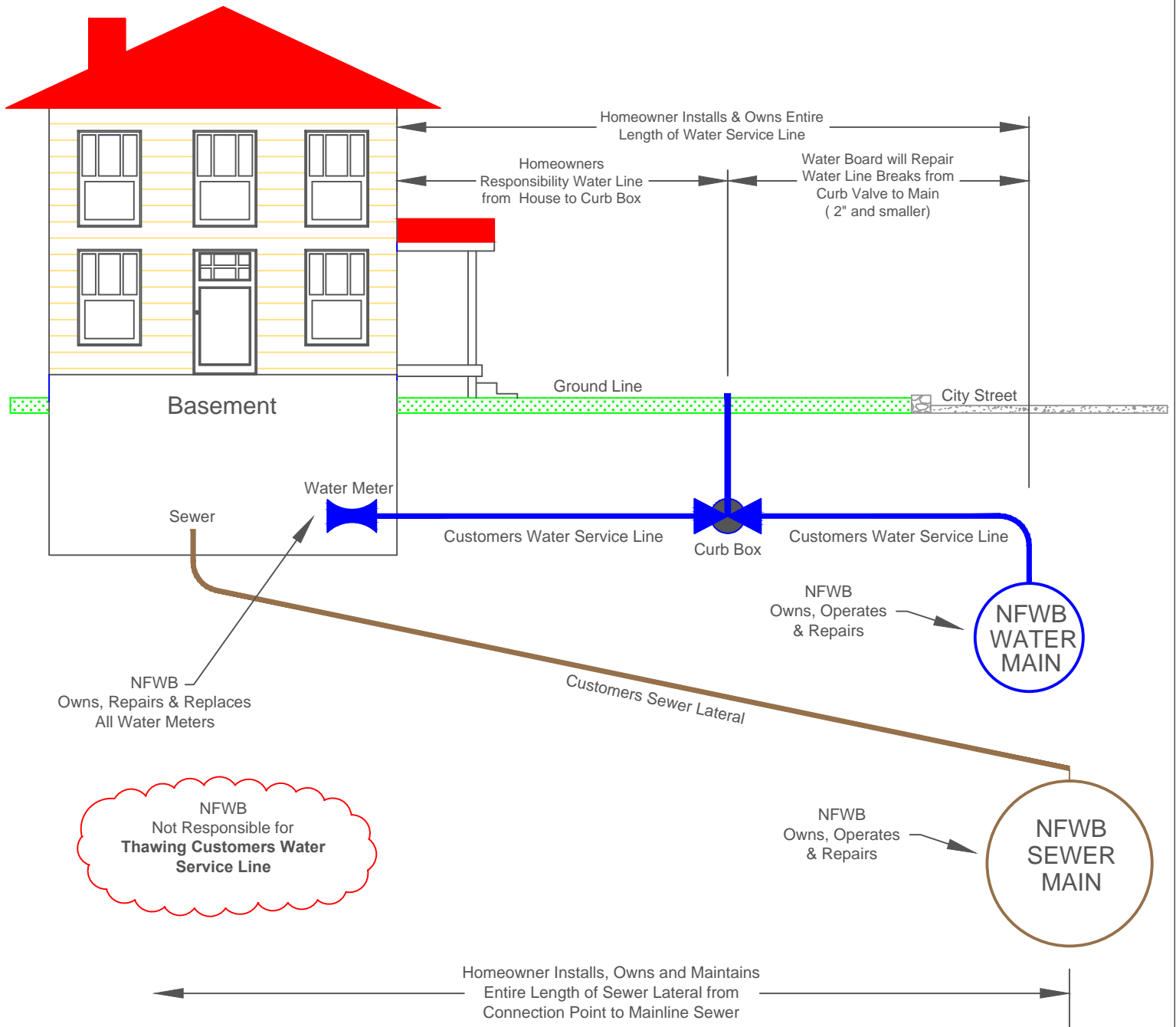
- Ensure you know where the main water shut-off valve is in your home and how it operates.
- Insulate pipes most prone to freezing, especially near outside walls and in crawl spaces, the attic and garage. This can be done with foam pipe covers available from building supply or home improvement stores.
- Seal air leaks in your home and garage to stop cold air from getting in. Check around windows and doors, electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes.
- Unscrew outdoor garden hoses, turn off the outdoor water supply, and allow the taps to drain before the first frost.
- If your pipes are prone to freezing, there may be a problem you cannot see. Consider contacting a plumber for advice on how best to protect your home.
- Commercial water customers - protect fire lines by wrapping all lines exposed to cold.

## What to do when the temperature drops well below zero

- Ensure areas that contain indoor water pipes are kept above 55 F, especially near the water meter.
- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen, bathroom and laundry cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate around the plumbing.
- If leaving for an extended period of time, turn off the water at the main service valve in the basement and open the taps to drain the water from your plumbing lines. You may also wish to have someone check your home regularly.
- For your own peace of mind, you can choose to run a pencil-thin stream of water to ensure some movement of water in the pipes. However, you will be charged for the water used if you choose this step.
  - Run cold water from the lowest point in the house, usually a laundry room sink or tub.
  - Ensure the drain is kept clear of debris to prevent overflowing or flooding.



# NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WATER AND SEWER LINES



Regulation Reference:  
NYCRR Title 21  
Chapter XXX  
Parts 1950 & 1960

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