

Texas Freeze Checklist

SURVIVALSTOCKUP

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Prepare before temperatures fall. Plan for power and water interruptions.

PROTECT PEOPLE, PETS AND PIPES. FOLLOW YOUR LOCAL UTILITY'S ADVICE.

Household / city or county

Forecast low / freeze begins / checks completed

01 BEFORE THE FREEZE

☐ Enable local alerts

Follow your local National Weather Service forecast and city or county emergency alerts. Save utility outage contacts.

☐ Prepare food and drinking water

Stock several days of no-cook food and a manual opener. Store 1 gallon of water per person per day, plus pet needs.

☐ Charge and stage essentials

Charge phones and [power banks](#). Set out flashlights, batteries, medicines and a battery radio.

☐ Plan help and a warm destination

Arrange check-ins, transport and backup power for medical devices. Bring pets indoors and protect sensitive plants.

03 WHEN FREEZING STARTS

☐ Keep indoor heat steady

Avoid overnight setbacks during severe cold. Close garages with plumbing and monitor vulnerable rooms.

☐ Warm under-sink plumbing

Open cabinet doors to allow room warmth in. Move cleaners and chemicals out of children's and pets' reach.

☐ Check your water utility's advice

Drip vulnerable faucets only as locally advised. Locate the main shutoff now; ask about stuck or inaccessible valves.

02 OUTDOOR & EXPOSED PIPES

☐ Disconnect hoses

Drain and store hoses. Winterize outdoor taps according to their design; drain isolated lines where fitted.

☐ Protect outdoor faucets

Fit [insulated faucet covers](#) after winterizing. Covers alone cannot guarantee freeze protection.

☐ Insulate vulnerable water lines

Check garages, crawl spaces and accessible attic plumbing. Fit [pipe insulation](#) to exposed hot and cold lines.

☐ Winterize other water systems

Arrange proper irrigation, backflow and pool winterization. Follow installer instructions for your system.

04 IF POWER GOES OUT

☐ Use safe light and warm layers

Use LED lights, dry clothing and blankets. Test [battery CO alarms](#). Never use a gas oven for heat.

☐ Protect food and water

Keep fridge and freezer closed; note the outage time. Follow utility notices and use safe stored drinking water.

☐ Relocate before it is urgent

If warmth or medical power cannot be maintained, use your backup destination. Confirm a safe route before traveling.

Freeze Response & Home Plan

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Keep these contacts and shutoff details where everyone can find them.

AVOID ICY ROADS. STAY CLEAR OF DOWNED WIRES. NEVER THAW WITH FLAME.

05 IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

☐ Little or no faucet flow

Suspect a frozen pipe. Call a plumber for hidden or inaccessible lines. Do not use a torch or open flame.

☐ Burst pipe or new leak

Shut off the home's water if safely accessible; call a plumber. Stay out of water near electrical equipment.

☐ Boil-water notice

Use bottled water or boil as your utility directs for drinking, cooking and brushing teeth. A typical pitcher filter is not enough.

☐ Do-not-use / do-not-drink notice

Follow the notice exactly. Boiling does not remove all contaminants. Use an approved alternate water source.

Generator and carbon monoxide safety: Run portable generators outdoors, more than 20 feet from doors, windows and vents, with exhaust directed away. Never run one in a garage or plug it into a wall outlet. Keep grills and fuel-burning camp stoves outside. If a CO alarm sounds, get everyone outside and call 911.

06 YOUR TEXAS FREEZE PLAN

Electric utility / outage phone or website

Water utility / advisories phone or website

Main water shutoff location / who can use it

Plumber / landlord / emergency phone

Warm destination / phone / transport

Medical-device backup / tested battery runtime

Neighbor or family check-in / phone

Supplies to buy / repairs to finish / owner

After thawing: Check accessible plumbing for leaks as water flow returns. Photograph damage if safe, arrange repairs and keep receipts. Avoid icy bridges and overpasses; check DriveTexas.org before essential travel.

USEFUL FREEZE-PROTECTION GEAR — AMAZON

[Faucet covers](#)

[Pipe insulation](#)

[Battery CO alarms](#)

[Phone power banks](#)

[TDI: winter preparation](#)

[TCEQ: water notices](#)

[Texas road conditions](#)

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Emergency preparedness guides & checklists

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