



**AMERIND**  
Risk Management Corporation

502 Cedar Drive  
Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004  
Ph: 505.404.5000  
Ph: 800.352.3496  
Fx: 505.404.5001  
[www.amerindrisk.org](http://www.amerindrisk.org)



## Protecting Against Severe Cold Weather

Severe and sustained cold weather, with snowfalls interspersed with periods of melting and freezing can inflict considerable damage on homes. Here are some tips and steps you can take to make it less likely during extended severe weather.

- Keep sidewalks and entrances to your home free from snow and ice. Watch for ice dams near gutter downspouts.
- Keep gutters free of leaves and debris so melting snow and ice can flow freely. Ice dams can cause water to build up and seep into your house.
- Keep the house heated to a minimum of 65 degrees. The temperature inside the walls where the pipes are located is substantially colder than the walls themselves. A temperature lower than 65 degrees will not keep the inside walls from freezing.
- If ice forms on tree limbs, watch for dead, damaged or dangerous branches that could break and fall because of ice, snow or wind damaging your house, vehicle, or injure someone walking near your property.

### To keep water in pipes from freezing, take the following steps:

- Fit exposed pipes with insulation sleeves or wrapping to slow the heat transfer. The more insulation there is the better.
- Seal cracks and holes in outside walls and foundations near water pipes with caulking.
- Keep cabinet doors open during cold spells to allow warm air to circulate around pipes (particularly in the kitchen and bathroom).
- Keep a slow trickle of water flowing through faucets connected to pipes that run through an unheated or unprotected space. Or drain the water system, especially if your house will be unattended during cold periods.
- If your pipes burst, first turn off the water and then mop up spills. You don't want the water to do more damage than it already has.
- If you haven't already, make sure all hoses are disconnected from outside spigots.
- Make temporary repairs and take other steps to protect your property from further damage. Remove any carpet or furniture that can be further damaged from seepage.

## Safety is No Accident!

For more information, please visit AMERIND Safety Services' web page at [www.amerindrisk.org](http://www.amerindrisk.org) ->> News and Resources ->> Safety Services or visit the National Safety Council's Web site at [www.NSC.org](http://www.NSC.org).

Contact the AMERIND Safety Services Team  
by telephone at 800.352.3496.