

INFORMATION ON FROZEN WATER SERVICE LINES TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

RESPONSIBILITY- The Town of Georgetown is responsible only for the maintenance of the water main lines in the street.

Property owners are responsible for the installation and maintenance of their water service line, all the way from the main line in the street to inside the house, including from the curb valve box to the main line.

Almost all water line freezes occur because the property owner's water service line has frozen. Often it may be frozen in the street where the water service line taps into the water main line. Water main lines rarely freeze.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR WATER SERVICE LINE FREEZES

As the responsibility for maintaining the water service line is the property owner's responsibility, if the water service line freezes, it is the responsibility of the property owner to have the water service line thawed out. There are different methods of thawing a water line such as:

- Injecting hot water into the service line from inside the house
- By having a welder attach a welding machine to the water line inside the house and out at a water service line curb valve box and running an electrical current through the water service line to heat up the pipe
- Wait until it thaws by itself in the spring

INSULATION OF WATER LINES

To help people who have water lines which freeze, the Town Board of Selectmen have agreed to waive the \$75.00 excavation permit fee for the property owners who excavate and insulate their water line. We still require that a permit be obtained, but we waive the \$75.00 permit and inspection fee. Each inch of "blue board" insulation is equivalent to one foot of dirt cover over the buried water line.

Other insulation ideas that might help prevent water line freezing are:

- Seal cracks in doors, windows and foundations. Small openings concentrate cold air creating a cold blow torch that can quickly freeze pipes.
- Open cabinets and closets that contain water lines to allow warm air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Consider installing water pipe insulation. Local building supply stores carry a number of products designed specifically for this purpose. If you decide to use a heat tape, be sure it has the UL seal of approval.
- Check pipe insulation periodically to make sure that it is dry. Wet insulation can be worse than no insulation.