

PREVENTION OF FROZEN WATER-PIPES

The Ministry of Works considers it advisable to warn house-holders and others to take every step possible to prevent their water-pipes freezing this winter.

The great majority of plumbers are either in the Forces or engaged on essential work, and few will be available for repairs in the event of a severe frost. There is also a shortage of plumbing materials, so that in the national interest, as well as to avert the danger of flooded homes, householders should take action at once.

The Ministry of Works offers the following general advice, which will be amplified, where necessary, by local water companies:

Indoor pipes where water is most likely to freeze are:

- small pipes;
- pipes under unboarded roofs;
- pipes near cold draughts;
- pipes away from the heated parts of the house.

Tanks, cisterns and outside pipes leading to other buildings or annexes may also freeze.

It is recommended, immediately, to lag all such pipes, cisterns and tanks, tightly and thoroughly, particularly those <sup>near</sup> outside walls, using such material as straw, old sacking, matting, old carpet or, if none of these is available, old soft rags and newspaper. An old tarpaulin or garden tent could be used for a tank.

The danger to waste pipes is from drips. No tap should drip, and when frost threatens overnight, baths and sinks should be stoppered.

The house-holder should know where his main stop-cocks are and remember to shut off the water supply and empty the pipes when leaving the house for more than a day when frost is likely.