

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **FROZEN PIPES AND WRAPPING UP FOR WINTER**

With winter fast approaching, Portsmouth Water, WaterSafe, and the Met Office are advising homeowners to wrap up their homes as well as themselves to stay safe this season. Cold temperatures can cause water inside pipes to freeze leading to bursts, floods and the misery of being without water for drinking, cooking and washing.

The message to take action now comes as part of the Government's Get Ready for Winter Campaign, with Portsmouth Water and WaterSafe urging homeowners to wrap up their homes with pipe lagging and insulation to stay safe and healthy this winter. Research shows, despite (91 per cent) of households in the (South East) saying they know water pipes can freeze and burst in cold weather, only (12 per cent) insulate their pipes and only (a quarter) have a plumber's number to hand in case of emergencies.

There are lots of simple steps households can take to prepare for a cold winter and now is a great time to get ahead and make sure homes are snug. To help businesses and other customers prepare Portsmouth Water has produced a leaflet called 'Wrap Up For Winter' containing simple and practical advice to help customers protect their pipework this winter.

Neville Smith, Managing Director at Portsmouth Water said "I urge our customers to read and follow the advice contained in this leaflet. It really is worth protecting your property, burst pipes can cause severe damage and are expensive to repair."

To download a copy of the leaflet please visit Portsmouth Water's website at [www.portsmouthwater.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk) and click on the 'Wrap up for Winter' icon.

For further information about getting ready for winter visit the met office website on [www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk). The website, is hosting the Government's 'get ready for winter' initiative and has information designed to make sure people and their families are ready for the cold weather and the impact it can have. The website has plenty of practical information to help you survive the winter months including tips on winter motoring to finding out what benefits and allowances you can claim to meet heating costs along with useful links to many other organisations.

### **For further information please contact**

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**Ends**

#### **Notes to Editors**

Website: [www.portsmouthwater.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk)

Twitter: @portsmouthwater

Portsmouth Water is one of the oldest water companies in the country, having been incorporated in 1857. We are proud sponsors of Portsmouth in Bloom, EBP Schools Science Fair, Staunton Country Park and Water Aid.

#### *Our Water Sources*

Our water, of high quality, is derived from the chalk of the South Downs and is abstracted from wells, boreholes, springs and the River Itchen. The Springs at Havant and Bedhampton are thought to be the largest group of springs used for public supplies in Europe.

#### *Statistics*

We serve 304,000 homes and businesses in an area covering 868 square kilometres (335 square miles) from the River Meon in Hampshire to the River Arun in West Sussex.

Every day we supply around 180 million litres (40 million gallons) of water to a population of over 660,000 people at the lowest cost in England and Wales.

#### *Our Distribution Network*

Water is supplied to our customers through a network of over 3,200 kilometres (1,990 miles) of underground water mains and more than 300,000 individual service connections, all of which are continuously maintained by our distribution staff.

# Wrap up for winter

As temperatures fall, it's time to wrap up your home as well as yourself. Lagging water pipes will stop them freezing and bursting in chilly weather.



For tips on how to stay safe and warm this winter visit [metoffice.gov.uk/getreadyforwinter](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/getreadyforwinter)



**Need a plumber?**  
Find an accredited business near you at [watersafe.org.uk](https://www.watersafe.org.uk)



**Find out more?**  
Visit our website for more Wrap up this winter tips [www.portsmouthwater.co.uk](https://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk)