

USE OF K-FLEX INSULATION PRODUCTS FOR FREEZE PREVENTION

Insulation Products are often used to prevent pipes from freezing. Insulation slows heat loss in pipes and will prevent pipes from freezing for short periods of time. Specific recommendations will depend on the conditions. Use of insulation for freeze prevention is very effective in climates where temperatures fluctuate quickly and cold snaps do not last long. Insulation products will retard heat loss, thus prolonging the time before pipes will freeze. Given enough time, pipes will freeze if there is no heat input or fluid flow.

For severe or prolonged periods of below freezing conditions, the use of heat tapes is recommended. All K-FLEX USA insulation products can be used with heat tapes with the exception of foam tapes which are not recommended for use with heat tapes/trace. See technical bulletin TA24 for use of heat trace tapes.

Using our IsoCalc program, the K-FLEX USA Technical Service Group can provide insulation thickness recommendations or calculate time to freezing for specific conditions. Or if you prefer, the IsoCalc program can be downloaded from our website (registration is required). Results will depend on ambient temperatures, pipe size, pipe (fluid) temperature, length of pipe, length of time below freezing and water flow.

Once the optimum insulation thickness is established, it is important that the entire pipe is insulated, including all fittings.

Insulation products, when installed properly, will prolong the time before hot/cold water pipes freeze in temperatures below 32°F.