CLAIMS

1. Device for freezing ground, with a freeze pipe, which is closed at an end face, and an inner pipe, which protrudes into the freeze pipe, for supplying a refrigerant, wherein a hollow body is provided, the inner diameter of which is larger than the outer diameter of the freeze pipe, wherein a contact medium, which has a freezing point of no more than 0°C, is located between the freeze pipe and the hollow body, wherein means for heating the contact medium are provided, characterized in that the means for heating the contact medium comprise an electric heater and/or a heat transfer~~ medium~~ line, which extends at least in sections through a space between the freeze pipe and the hollow body, for supplying a heat carrier~~transfer medium~~.

2. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the hollow body comprises a polymer material – in particular, polytetrafluoroethylene.

3. Device according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the hollow body is closed at one of the end faces thereof.

4. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least a portion of the means for heating the contact medium is wound around the freeze pipe.

5. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the means for heating the contact medium comprise a heat transfer~~ medium~~ line for supplying a heat carrier~~transfer medium~~, and that

the heat transfer~~ medium~~ line has a predetermined breaking point and/or outlet openings for the heat carrier~~transfer medium~~.

6. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that an exhaust pipe protruding into the freeze pipe is provided.

7. Method for freezing ground, with a freeze pipe and an inner pipe which protrudes into the freeze pipe, wherein a refrigerant is conducted into the freeze pipe via the inner pipe, wherein a hollow body, the inner diameter of which is larger than the outer diameter of the freeze pipe, is introduced into the ground, and the freeze pipe is introduced into the hollow body, wherein a contact medium, which has a freezing point of no more than 0°C, is introduced into a space between the hollow body and the freeze pipe, wherein the freeze pipe is removed from the hollow body after the ground is frozen, characterized in that the contact medium is heated by an electric heater and/or a heat transfer~~ medium~~ line, which extends at least in sections through the space between the freeze pipe and the hollow body, before the freeze pipe is removed.

8. Method according to claim 7, characterized in that liquid nitrogen or an aqueous saline solution is conducted as refrigerant into the freeze pipe.