

The importance of water damage prevention



Insurance providers advise that water damage claims in individual residences have increased significantly over the past years. In addition to the costs to repair after these losses, relations with neighbors can be strained if they have also suffered damage to their property as a result.

In recent years, water damage claims have increased significantly according to insurance providers. Along with the expensive costs of replacing and repairing damaged areas of the home, there could also be strained relationships with neighbors if they too have suffered the same damages. Water damage begins in many ways.

The most common causes of water damage

- Overflowing hoses with standing water that freeze and create an ice block which stops the water flow and burst pipes that connect around your home

- Dishwasher or washing machine pipes that burst or become detached
- Sump pump failure
- Unattended bathtubs or sinks that overflow, or toilets that are clogged
- Leaks that are not inspected and slowly creep through walls, floors, and foundation.

How can I prevent condo water damage?

We recommend following these protocols which will keep your home safe from potential (and costly!) water damage.

1. **Be Proactive:** If you see or hear plumbing malfunctions, contact a professional immediately so they can inspect and diagnose the issue. If they find something is wrong, the plumbing issue will typically be fixed under the professional's recommendations.
2. **Monitor common problem areas:** Check your crawl spaces, basements, and attics as these are areas of your home that are more prone to water damage. You don't want to risk having mold, mildew, or dry rot that potentially causes structural home damage.
3. **Double check your appliances:** Ensure all appliances or bathroom items that use water, such as washing machines, dishwashers, and faucets are turned off when not using them. If you are using them, don't lose attention as water can easily overflow in a matter of minutes, and especially don't leave them on if you leave your home.
4. **Plumbing precautions:** Don't flush unnecessary items down the toilet, which can cause it to clog or plug. This includes clumps of hair, grease or oil, bathroom wipes, diapers, and even prescription medication. It may not cause an issue the first time, but making a habit of it could cause serious plumbing and draining problems in the future. An easy way to determine if you have a toilet leak is by

dropping a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If you see the color show up in the bowl, it's time to call the plumber.

5. **Be ready for seasonal changes:** When the winter and summer season comes and you sense a potential HVAC problem, ask your professional to check your heating and air conditioning units because they can cause moisture buildup if not maintained properly. This is especially important because mold can grow inside and blast throughout your home, damaging your health in the process.