



Southwestern Insurance Information Service

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CONSUMER TIP

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WATER DAMAGE PREVENTION TIPS

Water damage inside a home can result in thousands of dollars, damaging or destroying valuable personal property and priceless heirlooms. In many cases, water damage can be avoided with routine maintenance. The causes of water damage are many, ranging from broken pipes, leaking hoses and roof leaks. Water leaks happen in a variety of places within a home, but they occur most frequently in laundry rooms, kitchens and bathrooms.

The following information has been developed to help consumers identify and, hopefully, prevent water from entering their homes.

LAUNDRY ROOMS

Routinely inspect washing machine hoses for signs bulging, cracking or wetness. Replacing hoses is a fairly simple job. Simply shut off the water supply to your washing machine or close the main shut off valve to your home.

KITCHENS

Inspect the hose connection to the ice maker on your refrigerator. The connection should be secure and free of moisture. Ignoring a kinked, crimped or leaking line could cause significant water damage.

SINKS

For Additional Information:

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Check the pipes around and under your sink for water leaks and take steps to correct slow draining pipes.

BATHROOMS

Watch for discoloration around the floor or soft spots on the walls near a bathtub or shower. This may be an indication of a leak. Check around the toilet for water damage on the floor. Should the floor around the toilet seem soft, there may be structural damage. It is advisable to call a professional.

OUTDOOR ITEMS

Damage can also occur outside your home and result in water intrusion and significant devastation.

Gutters, downspouts and the valleys of your roof should be kept free of leaves, twigs and other debris which can prevent proper drainage.

Check the weep holes around your home and clean them frequently to help prevent water from building up behind walls.

Keep trees trimmed to prevent them from rubbing against the roof and causing damage to the shingles.

Look around windows and doors for cracked caulking and re-caulk where necessary to prevent moisture from entering the home.

Check around the foundation to be certain that water drains away from the foundation and walls.

Water stains on the ceiling can signal a water leak. Possibly check the attic around flues, vents and chimneys for damaged or deteriorating flashing.

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Disconnect water hoses from their spigots at the beginning of winter to avoid bursting pipes.

THINGS TO DO AFTER A WATER DAMAGE INCIDENT

Stop the flow of water, if possible, by turning off the main water supply to the house.

All electronic equipment and electrical appliances should be disconnected and moved to a dry place.

Remove as much standing water and possible to prevent further significant damage.

Try and move water damaged household items to a dry area of the home.

Call your insurance Agent immediately in order that professional clean-up may begin as soon as possible.

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