

# Loss Prevention Safety Tip



Loss Prevention  
Program

By Red River Mutual

## PREVENTING WATER DAMAGE

You can avoid the hassle of water damage simply through proper maintenance, regular inspections and prompt repairs. Following these water damage protection tips will help safeguard your home:

- Maintain your sump pump. Nobody wants a flooded basement but many people ignore the maintenance of their sump pump system. Check the system regularly, make sure it is plugged in, and ensure you have a source of backup power in case of an emergency.
- Have a plumber install backflow valves to avoid sewer backup.
- Test floor drains in garages, bathrooms, basements and patios by pouring water into them. If they're not draining quickly, use a line snake to clear debris or call a plumber for service.
- Check your hot water tank for signs of wear. If you suspect a leak, contact the supplier to see if the guarantee is still in force. You may have to replace it if the tank has reached its 10-year maximum service life.
- Keep the tracks of your windows clean and free of debris so that water can drain away properly.
- If your home has exterior stucco siding, do a quick visual inspection. Should you find any cracks 1/8" wide or larger, have them repaired by a professional as this may affect water tightness.
- If your home will be unoccupied for more than a few days, take the time to shut off the main water source value to your house. For longer periods, ask a friend, relative or neighbor to check your home while away.
- Check yard drains, culverts, gutters and downspouts to be sure they are open and clear of debris so that water is channeled away from the home's foundation.
- Inspect foundation and basement walls for cracks. Watermarks near cracks could be signs of recent leaks and future risk. Use concrete patch to repair cracks or consult an expert.
- Make sure your roof is in good condition. Water can easily seep in through damaged or dislodged shingles.
- Install downspout extensions to drain water at least six feet away from your foundation.
- Check hoses and hose connections on your dishwasher, refrigerator, sinks, etc. at least once a year for brittleness or corrosion and replace immediately if any defects are found.
- Replace both hot and cold washing machine hoses every 5 to 7 years, even if they appear to be in good condition. To prevent leaks and rupture, consider upgrading washing machine hoses to stainless steel braided hoses.



**See more loss prevention tips at [www.preventingloss.com](http://www.preventingloss.com)**

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