

Water Damage Prevention Tips

Provided as a free educational resource by Referral Cleaning & Restoration
For 24/7 Emergency Water Damage Restoration Call (260) 483-4383
Learn more at www.FloodedInFortWayne.com

Heavy Rain/Thunderstorms

Sump Pump

- Ensure water can flow freely wherever the sump pump discharges.
- Check that the pit/hole that the sump pump is in, is clean and free of debris that could plug the pump intake or cause the float to get stuck, preventing the pump from turning on.
- Install a battery backup sump pump.
- If you have a battery backup sump pump, make sure the battery is charged.
- If you have a generator, make sure it's operational. If not purchase or borrow one. In case of a power outage you can continue to supply power to the sump pump.
- If your sump pump is older than 10 years consult a plumber about replacing it before it fails.

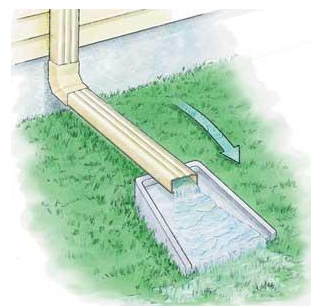


Sewer/Drain Back Up & Cleaning

- In areas where the sewer and storm drains are connected water damage may occur in your home during heavy rain. One way to prevent this is to install a check valve between your home and the main sewer line to prevent backflows into your home.

Gutters/Drainage

- Clear Gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris.
- Use downspout extensions to get the water as far away from your home as possible.
- Make sure water flows away from your home.



Fix Foundation Leaks

General Tips

- **Insurance** - Examine your insurance policy or check with your insurance agent to make sure you have proper coverage if water damage occurs. If you have a finished basement make sure you have sump pump/drain back up endorsement which is usually in addition to your standard homeowners policy.
- **Storage** - Store your personal belongings on shelves or in plastic containers. This will prevent water from damaging the contents like it does when stored in a cardboard box.
- **Dehumidifier** - Use a dehumidifier to remove excess moisture from the air.
- **Water Damage Alarms** - In areas where you may not go in your home everyday such as your basement, place an alarm to alert you if water damage occurs. Another option is to install a Leak Defense System that monitors your home's water flow and if a leak is noticed an alarm will sound and the water to your home will be shut off.

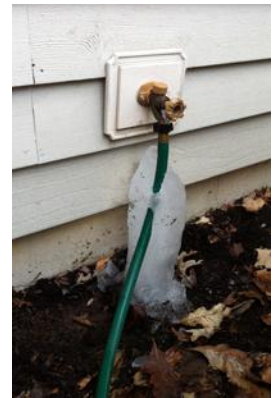


- **Drywall** - When hanging drywall allow approximately an inch gap between the floor and the drywall so water is less likely to soak into drywall.
- **Replace Washing Machine Hoses**- Don't wait for them to break, replace your washing machine hoses every 5 years. Or purchase a high quality pair at www.Floodchek.com
- **Water Shut Off Valve** - Make sure everyone in your home knows where the main water shut off valve is and how to turn it off in an emergency. (Turn the valve clockwise to turn it off). If you go out of town turn your water off or arrange for someone to check on your house.
- **Plumbing** - Have a plumber inspect your plumbing and sump pump for leaks.
- **Drain Pan** - Install a drain pan under your washer and hot water heater to prevent leaks from becoming water damage.



Freezing Temperatures

- **Garden Hoses** - Disconnect garden hoses from all outside faucets in the fall BEFORE freezing temperatures. The first time you use your outside faucet in the spring be sure to check to make sure the pipes did not freeze in the winter. After turning on your outside water faucet do a quick check of your water pipes, if you hear water leaking immediately go to your water shut off valve and turn it off.
- **Insulate** - Insulates pipes to prevent freezing, especially those in a garage, attic or exterior wall.
- **Drain Water Lines** - If it is extremely cold or your heat isn't working, turn off your main water valve and open all the faucets in your home to drain and release pressure from water lines. This may prevent pressurized lines from freezing and bursting causing a water damage.
- **Keep Garage Doors Closed**- Especially during cold weather if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- **Open Kitchen and Bathroom Cabinet Doors**- This will allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing.
- **Let Water Drip From Faucets Served by Exposed Pipes**- Running water through the pipe, even at a trickle will help prevent pipes from freezing during below freezing temperatures.
- **Winterize** - If your home will be vacant for the winter have a professional winterize your home's plumbing.
- **Sprinkler Systems** - Turn off and drain.



Be Prepared – Learn more at www.FloodedInFortWayne.com Find links and videos to help prevent water damage, learn emergency steps to take when water damage occurs, understand why mold occurs, see the different steps in Referral's water damage restoration process and find out how the source of water damage affects insurance coverage.

5 Reasons you can trust Referral to QUICKLY return a wet house back into a clean, healthy and dry home.

1. Experience
2. Training/Knowledge
3. Service
4. Tools
5. Restore – Not Replace

If Water Damage Occurs Call



(260) 483-4383

www.FloodedInFortWayne.com