

Sewer Backup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of a backwater valve can help prevent sewage from backing up into the home. Backwater valves should be installed by a professional plumber and allow access for regular maintenance • Downspouts connected to the municipal system should be disconnected. • Downspouts should extend at least 6 feet (where possible) from basement walls and drain away from the house
Sump Pump Failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reliable backup source (battery or generator) is necessary so the sump pump can still function in the event of a power outage. Batteries should be replaced every 2-3 years • Follow manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance
Burst Pipes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace aging or corroded pipes • Consider installation of a water alarm/shut off system • Ensure the home is checked during absences through the heating season
Toilets, Tubs & Sinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace aging fixtures, tubs and toilets • Never leave running taps unattended
Roof Leaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure aging or worn shingles are replaced • Make sure the attic is properly insulated • Have eavestroughs cleared of leaves at least once a year (fall is a good time) • Install a waterproof membrane barrier when replacing a roof
Appliance Leaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace aging appliances • Replace plastic connection lines with steel braided hoses • Have hot water tank checked by tank provider (if rented) • Avoid running appliances when no one is home

Other Tips to Help Prevent Water Damage

- Items kept in the basement should be stored off the ground and in plastic containers
- Avoid pouring fats and grease down the drain
- Make sure everyone in the household knows the location of the shut-off valve
- Consider investing in a rain barrel to prevent run off by temporarily holding rainfall for later use – an environmentally friendly solution
- Have a licensed plumber inspect the home
- Speak to your municipality about special programs that may be in place to help prevent water damage

Looking for more information?

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca
 Insurance Bureau of Canada: www.ibc.ca
 Institute of Catastrophic Loss Reduction: www.iclr.org

What to Do in the Event of Water Damage

- Do not do anything unless it is absolutely safe to do so
- Avoid direct contact with dirty water, electrical hazards and human waste
- Wear protective gear if entering a part of your home that has been affected
- Turn off electrical power to the affected area
- Unplug and remove electrical appliances
- Move furniture or secure on raised blocks to help prevent water damage
- Ventilate and dry the area by opening windows and doors or use fans and dehumidifiers
- If the source of the water can be identified, shut it off
- Remove damages or wet materials
- If necessary, contact a qualified contractor who specializes in water damage