

WATER facts & figures

Reducing Water Damage In Your Home

(NAPSA)—Water is one of the most important substances in people's daily lives, but it can also be one of the most destructive, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage each year for homeowners.

From broken and frozen pipes to leaking appliances, household problems that cause water damage can destroy floors and walls, furniture, televisions and stereos, and irreplaceable family heirlooms.

Often the damage could have been avoided, say experts at State Farm Insurance.

To make sure water damage doesn't disrupt your life, here are a few simple ideas:

- Check and replace washing machine hoses regularly, especially if there are signs of cracking, bulging or other deterioration.

- Periodically make sure hose connections are secure on water supply lines to washing machines, ice makers, disposals, dishwashers and other appliances. Take care not to kink or puncture water lines if appliance is moved.

- Washing machines and hot water heaters should be installed in lower levels and floor pans and drains installed with them.

- A sump pump can keep water out of your basement. Install one if you have basement leakage, and if you already have one, look into using batteries or a generator for backup power in case of power loss.



Insulate exposed pipes in attics, crawl spaces and outside walls to prevent pipes bursting.

- Pour a cup of mild bleach solution down air conditioner drain lines periodically to help keep them clear and reduce build-up of molds.

- Disconnect garden hoses and outside hose connections each fall.

- Clean debris from your roof and inspect it regularly. Promptly repair missing or damaged shingles, flashing or other areas that could cause leaks.

- Winterize your home. Insulate exposed pipes and pipes in attics, crawl spaces and outside walls. Maintain adequate heat during the winter, even if your home will not be occupied for some time. Set the thermostat no lower than 55°F.

- Turn off the water at the main valve, or at major appliances, if you will be away from home for several days.

For more safety tips, you can visit State Farm Insurance at www.statefarm.com.