



Emergency Preparedness

Know your shut-offs and keep the right tools ready. A few minutes now keeps a burst pipe or sudden leak from becoming a flooded floor.

1 Know Your Shut-Off Valves

- ☐ Locate the main water shut-off valve for the whole house. It is usually near the water meter, in a garage, or where the main line enters the home.
- ☐ Find the individual shut-off valves for each toilet, sink, the washing machine, the dishwasher, and the water heater.
- ☐ Test that the main valve turns. Old valves can seize, and it is better to learn that today than during a flood.

2 Tools and Supplies to Keep on Hand

- ☐ Basic plumbing toolkit: pipe wrench, basin wrench, pliers, and screwdrivers.
- ☐ A cup plunger for sinks and a flange plunger for toilets.
- ☐ Hand auger or a small drain snake for minor clogs.
- ☐ Buckets and towels for catching and soaking up leaks.
- ☐ Plumber's tape and temporary pipe repair clamps to slow a leak until help arrives.

3 Contacts and Practice

- ☐ Save the number of a trusted licensed plumber in your phone and post it somewhere visible at home.
- ☐ Walk every household member to the main shut-off valve and show them how to turn it off.
- ☐ Do a quick refresher once a year, especially before winter freezes.

4 When to Call Right Away

- ☐ Water you cannot stop even after closing a shut-off valve.
- ☐ A burst or frozen pipe, or sewage backing up into a drain, tub, or toilet.
- ☐ **Gas smell.** This is not a plumbing fix. Leave the home first, then call your gas company and 911 from a safe distance.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Safety first. Wear appropriate safety gear such as gloves and a mask when needed.

Professional help. For any major plumbing issue, call a licensed plumber. James Armstrong Plumbing serves Mesquite and the Dallas Fort Worth area at 214-918-6109.