



**WATER DAMAGE
IS NO FUN
AT ALL!**

For more information:

www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca
www.rona.ca
www.hydroquebec.com/incaseofpowerfailure/quitter.html

In the event of a problem,

call 1-800-361-4641



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Note: These tips are based on the experience and observations of our claims experts and several CMHC publications and are provided to encourage customers to exercise care. They do not replace the advice or involvement of plumbing and roofing specialists. Desjardins General Insurance is released of any liability in this regard.

*Twenty tips to keep you
from mopping up*



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Water damage to your home is no fun at all!

Yet we tend to underestimate water's destructive power. Or, at the very least, we don't take the necessary steps to prevent damage.

It's true that water damage can be repaired... most of the time. But the final result may not cover all losses. Family or travel mementoes, your favorite painting... all of it lost forever. Not to mention that leaks, which at first can seem so harmless, can cause serious damage.

An ounce of prevention can make all the difference. The following quiz will help you assess your approach to preventing water damage. Take it and see how you do!



Are you "Water Wise"?

Twenty quick questions to see if you're on top of the risks of home water damage.

A ROOM AT RISK

- 1 Do you always stay in the bathroom while filling the bathtub?
Yes No
- 2 Have you recently checked whether the silicone caulking around the bath and shower stall is in good shape?
Yes No

MACHINES CAN HAVE A MIND OF THEIR OWN...

- 3 Do you wait for your wash to finish before leaving the house or going to bed?
Yes No
- 4 Once the wash is finished, do you shut off the washing machine faucets?
Yes No

- 5 Do you wait for the dishwasher's drying cycle before leaving the house or going to bed?
Yes No
- 6 In the last year, have you checked whether scraps of food or pieces of broken dishes are blocking the dishwasher's drain?
Yes No
- 7 Do you check for water leaks within one hour of changing your water cooler bottle?
Note: A crack or defect could cause the entire contents to spill.
Yes No

SHUT OFF THE WATER... BUT WHERE?

- 8 Do you and the members of your family know where your home's water shutoff valves are (inlet taps for main water pipes, water heater, washing machine, dishwasher, sinks, and toilets)?
Yes No

DON'T FORGET YOUR PIPES

- 9 In the last six months, have you checked whether the plumbing beneath all sinks is perfectly dry?
Yes No
- 10 In the last year, have you checked whether the washing machine's flexible intake hoses are in good condition and not twisted?
Yes No
- 11 In the last five years, have you checked to ensure your dishwasher is installed properly?
Yes No
- 12 In the last six months, have you checked whether the floor around the toilet bowl, washing machine, dishwasher, water cooler, and water heater is perfectly dry?
Yes No

Questions for Homeowners

AROUND THE HOUSE

- 13 If your water heater is over 10 years old, do you check it often for signs of wear?
Yes No

THE ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD

- 14 Each spring, do you carefully inspect your roof and attic for raised asphalt shingles and wet mineral wool insulation?
Yes No
- 15 In the last two years, have you checked to ensure the roof flashing isn't cracked?
Yes No

Note: Flashing is metal trim to seal around the chimney, ventilation holes, skylights, and, for flat roofs, where the roof meets the walls.

TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE

- 16 Does your property slope enough to drain water away from the foundation? (If not, you are at risk, as water will find a way in.)
Yes No
- 17 In the fall, do you check that the gutters and downspouts are free of debris?
Yes No
- 18 Do the downspouts extend at least 1.8 meters (6 feet) from the foundation?
Yes No
- 19 Do you always shut off the water supply to outdoor taps before winter?
Yes No
- 20 Each year, do you carefully inspect your doors, windows, and foundation to repair caulking and cracks as needed?
Yes No

Did you pass the test?

The answer to all questions is—of course—YES.

- Give yourself 5 points for each correct answer.
- If you're a homeowner, a score below 75 should seriously worry you...
- If you're a tenant, a score below 40 should seriously worry your landlord and neighbors...