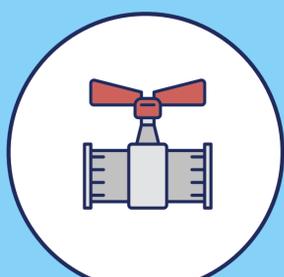


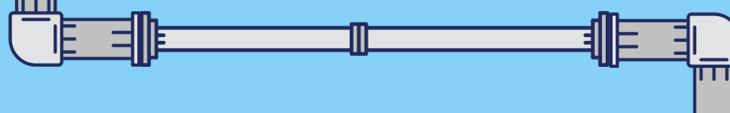
HOW PLUMBING MAINTENANCE SAVES YOU MONEY

Prevention is always better a cure. This is especially true for home plumbing. With these plumbing maintenance tips, you can often avoid many common plumbing problems that could not only cause damage to your home, but also end up costing you a lot of money. Read on for 8 plumbing maintenance tips that could save you money!



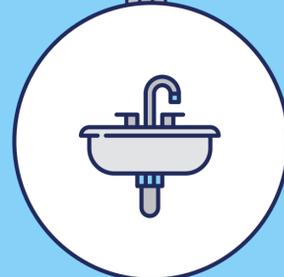
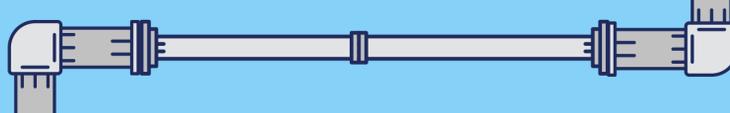
KNOW WHERE YOUR SHUT OFF IS

Whether you find a leaky tap or a burst pipe, your first course of action will be to cut the water off at the source by turning off your main. Knowing where the main shut off valve is means you can do this quickly, limiting further damage.



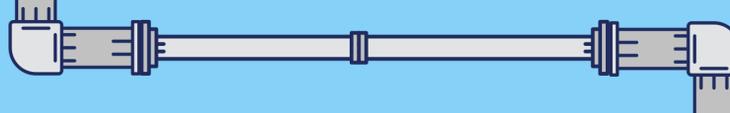
DON'T TREAT YOUR TOILET LIKE A BIN

Toilets are designed to handle certain kinds of waste. Never flush cotton swabs, sanitary products, diapers, wet wipes or any other kind of household waste down your toilet. These will cause blocked toilets that can be tough, and sometimes expensive, to clear.



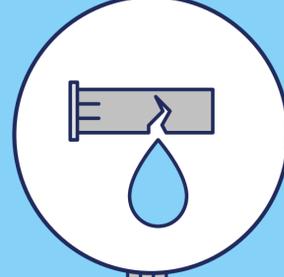
FLUSH YOUR SINKS

Fats, oils, grease, coffee grounds, eggshells or any solid food bits will cause a blocked sink drain. So avoid pouring these in your sink. Regularly flush your sinks with boiling water to break up any build ups that may occur. If you notice a foul smell, flush the sink with vinegar and baking soda.



CLEAN YOUR SHOWER REGULARLY

Soap scum and hair are common causes for blocked bathroom drains. Cover all drains with screeners or strainers to avoid these entering your pipes. Cleaning these strainers regularly should be part of your plumbing maintenance. Take your shower head apart from time to time and clean off mould and mineral deposits with vinegar.



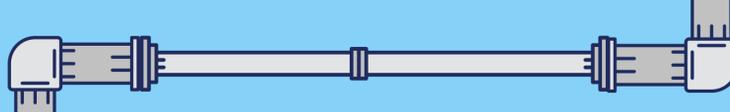
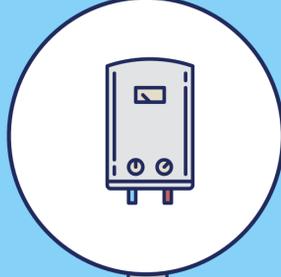
CHECK FOR LEAKS

Periodically check hoses, appliances and pipes under sinks for leaks. Small leaks will cause damage to wood or plaster over time and can also create mould which might be a health risk to you and your family. Small leaks can often be fixed by tightening pipe fittings or changing a tap washer. Larger leaks will probably require a professional plumber.



DON'T FORGET YOUR WATER HEATER

It's easy to take the hot water heater for granted. When it's working you can forget it's even there but when it stops you definitely know about it! Have your hot water system serviced annually. This will keep it in good working order and will cost less money than major repairs if it breaks down.



REMEMBER TO CHECK OUTSIDE

Plumbing doesn't end inside the house. Gutters and plumbing vents can become clogged with foliage and other debris causing a number of plumbing issues. Check and clean gutters, vents and other drainage areas regularly to avoid damage to your home.



DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP

While there are a number of ways plumbing maintenance prevents small leaks and other minor plumbing issues, don't overextend yourself. Making a mistake when trying to repair your own plumbing can end up costing you a lot of money. In many cases it is best to call a local plumber to handle existing plumbing problems.



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