

What Homeowners Should Do If A Pipe Bursts



Step	Description	Key Actions	Outcome
Shut Off the Main Water Supply	Stop the water flow to the damaged pipe by turning off the main water valve.	Locate the valve, turn it off quickly but gently; reduce flow if unable to shut completely.	Prevents flooding, limits damage, and buys time for further actions.
Turn Off Electricity in Affected Areas	Address electrical safety if water is near outlets, appliances, or electrical panels.	Shut off breakers for affected zones; avoid touching wet electrical equipment.	Reduces risk of electric shock or fire, ensuring safety for everyone.
Drain Remaining Water	Release pressure in the plumbing system and remove residual water.	Turn on cold water faucets, flush toilets, and leave faucets open.	Reduces ongoing leakage and prepares the system for repairs.
Protect Belongings and Contain Water	Move valuables, furniture, and electronics away from water; contain spread.	Use towels, buckets, or barriers; elevate wet materials like rugs and carpets.	Prevents additional damage and reduces restoration costs.
Ventilate and Begin Drying	Improve airflow to reduce moisture and prevent mold growth.	Open windows and doors; use fans and dehumidifiers if possible.	Limits long-term structural damage and health risks from mold.
Avoid Improper Repairs	Temporary fixes are ineffective and can worsen the damage.	Only apply quick fixes in emergencies; wait for professional repairs.	Prevents further failures and ensures permanent solutions.
Contact a Plumbing Professional	Call an experienced plumber to evaluate and repair the issue.	Select qualified professionals; allow them to inspect and recommend measures.	Restores safety, reliability, and prevents recurrence.
Document Damage for Insurance	Photograph and record affected areas for insurance purposes.	Take photos, videos, and notes on actions taken during the emergency.	Supports faster insurance claims and ensures financial protection.
Consider Preventive Measures	Implement steps to avoid future plumbing emergencies.	Insulate pipes, monitor water pressure, and schedule regular inspections.	Reduces the likelihood of repeat issues and protects investment.