

# Leaks and burst pipes



## What are the signs, how to prevent it and what to do if you find one

Escape of water damage is one of the most common types of home damage claims, [with insurers paying out £1.8 million](#) for it every day.



All year-round maintenance is critical to prevent any leaks around the house:

- Check for leaks from taps, toilets, sinks, baths and showers and make sure you replace any damaged sealant or tiles. Every now and then, it's also a good idea to check the pipes where your appliances are plumbed in to make sure there aren't any small leaks that could become a bigger issue.
- Always get a professional to install any new appliances which require plumbing.
- Be careful with what you put down the drain - fats and cooking oils, baby wipes, sanitary products and even hair can all cause blockages.
- Fancying a bit of DIY? Make sure you know exactly where are the water pipes are before drilling into any walls.
- If you can and it's safe to do so, shut down the water supply if leaving your home unoccupied for a longer period.



## How to spot them

The first signs of a leak in your home are:

- a sudden loss of water pressure
- mysterious puddles or damp patches appearing on a floor, wall or ceiling.

## What to do

- Turn off your water supply immediately at the stopcock.
- Run every tap to get the water out quickly.
- Soak up any leaked water with old towels.
- Call a qualified plumber; while you wait, you can temporarily patch the pipe with cloth or heavy-duty tape.

## How can you find out if there's a hidden leak in your home?

One way to do this is by checking the water meter - make a note of the number on the display and then turn off your home's water supply. Wait for at least half an hour and then check the meter again. If the number has changed, this could indicate a leak.



**LV=**  
**BROKER**