

The Complete Home Plumbing Checklist

Catch leaks early, winterize right, and keep every drain flowing — the season-by-season list smart homeowners actually use.

SPOT HIDDEN LEAKS EARLY

- Check under every sink for moisture, warped cabinet bases, or a musty smell
- Look for water stains or bubbling paint on ceilings and walls below bathrooms
- Inspect toilet bases for rocking or a ring of moisture on the floor
- Read your water meter, wait 2 hours with no water use, and read it again — movement means a hidden leak
- Add a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank; color in the bowl 10 minutes later means a leaking flapper
- Feel around the water heater base and supply lines for damp or rust

DRAINS & TOILETS

- Run hot water down each drain weekly to keep grease from building up
- Fit strainers over shower and sink drains to catch hair and food
- Never pour grease, oil, or coffee grounds down the kitchen sink
- Test that every drain empties quickly — a slow drain is an early warning
- Only flush toilet paper; keep wipes, floss, and cotton out of the bowl
- Clear pop-up drain stoppers of hair and gunk every month

WINTERIZE BEFORE THE FREEZE

- Disconnect, drain, and store all garden hoses before the first hard freeze
- Shut off and drain outdoor/hose-bib valves and install faucet covers
- Wrap exposed pipes in unheated spaces (garage, crawlspace, basement) with foam insulation
- On subzero nights, let a faucet drip and open cabinet doors to warm the pipes
- Know where your main shut-off valve is and make sure it turns freely
- Keep the thermostat at 55F or higher if you leave home in winter

WATER HEATER CARE

- Drain and flush the tank once a year to clear sediment
- Test the temperature & pressure relief (T&P) valve annually
- Set the thermostat to 120F to save energy and prevent scalding
- Check the anode rod every couple of years and replace if heavily corroded
- Keep the area around the heater clear of clutter and flammables

FIXTURES & APPLIANCES

- Inspect washing machine hoses for bulges or cracks; replace rubber hoses with braided steel
- Check dishwasher and fridge water lines for kinks or seepage
- Clean faucet aerators and showerheads of mineral buildup
- Exercise main and under-sink shut-off valves so they don't seize
- Test your sump pump by pouring in a bucket of water before the rainy season

If you find an active leak or water where it shouldn't be, shut off the supply and call a licensed plumber. A

\$89 diagnostic today is far cheaper than the drywall, flooring, and mold remediation a slow leak causes over

Acme Plumbing - Plumbing 24/7 at (555) 123-4567.

Prices are typical 2026 rates for standard conditions; your exact quote is free.

(555) 123-4567

24/7 · info@acmeplumbing.com