

FIRE EMERGENCIES

GREASE FIRE

Grease fires are a common occurrence in the kitchen. Here are a few ways to put out a grease fire. Whatever method you choose, **DO NOT** put water on the fire.



SMOTHER THE FIRE WITH A PAN LID

Slide the lid over the flames rather than coming from the top.

SMOTHER THE FIRE WITH A WET RAG OR TOWEL

If a lid isn't handy, use a wet rag or towel to smother the fire. Make sure the cloth is thick enough that it won't catch fire, too.

TURN OFF THE BURNER AND LET THE PAN COOL OFF NATURALLY

Once the flame is smothered, move the pan off the source of heat, if possible.

THROW PLENTY OF SALT OR BAKING SODA ON THE FIRE

DO NOT throw flour on the fire.

USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Use the acronym "PASS" to remember how to properly use the fire extinguisher.

Pull the lockpin from its place

Aim the nozzle at the base of the flames

Squeeze the handles together

Sweep from side to side at the base of the flames



FIRE EVACUATION

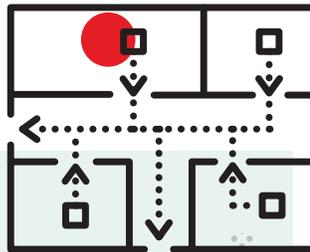
In the case of an emergency, it's always hard to remember what to do in the moment. The best way to prepare for an emergency like this is to have a plan. Here's an easy-to-remember acronym to keep you safe if you have to evacuate:

Rescue those who cannot get out by themselves and get everyone to a safe place.

Alarm or alert someone to get help, such as telling someone to contact the fire department.

Confine the fire by closing doors on the way out of the building to stop the fire from spreading.

Extinguish the fire if possible using a fire extinguisher. If no one is able to extinguish the fire or the fire is too big, wait for help in a safe place.



ELECTRICAL FIRE

Sometimes fires happen from a small household appliance when your electrical outlets are overloaded. Here's what you should do:

TURN OFF THE DEVICE AND UNPLUG THE APPLIANCE

SMOTHER THE FIRE WITH A HEAVY TOWEL OR BLANKET

If your microwave is the appliance that has caught fire, shut the door to smother the fire.

CALL YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Even if the fire was successfully extinguished, call the local fire department to make sure the fire does not happen again.



WATER EMERGENCIES

FLOODED BASEMENT

When faced with a flooded basement, act fast to save as much as you can, but **DO NOT** enter the basement right away. Here are the top things you should do:

IF YOU CAN, SHUT OFF THE ELECTRICITY WHERE THE WATER IS LOCATED

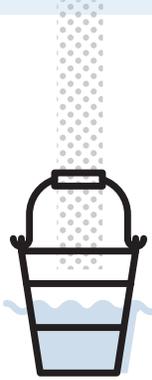
Water in electrical outlets creates a great risk for an electrical shock.

SAFELY START REMOVING THE WATER

If the water could be from a contaminated source, like the sewer, then wear plenty of protection, such as waders. You can use tools such as a sump pump, wet/dry vacuum, or a mop and bucket to remove water.

CALL A RESTORATION COMPANY

If you don't know where to start removing water or need help, a restoration company can help you dry out your basement and prevent water damage.



MOLD

If mold isn't removed properly from your home, especially after a water damage emergency, there's a high chance it will grow back. Here's how you can get rid of your mold problem:

DETERMINE THE TYPE OF MOLD THAT IS GROWING

Some mold, like black mold, can be hazardous to your health. Others are completely harmless.

FIX ANY SOURCES OF WATER DAMAGE

Mold grows in the presence of water, so create an environment where mold can't grow again after it's been removed.

USE A CLEANING DETERGENT TO SCRUB MOLD OFF HARD SURFACES

Bleach can be used to remove mold, but make sure to not mix bleach with any other household cleaner, especially one with ammonia.

THROW AWAY ANYTHING POROUS AND MOLDY

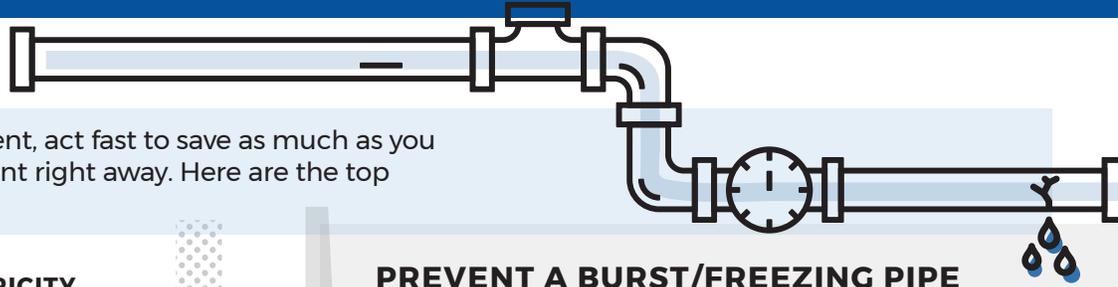
Mold can grow in the holes of a porous material, making it almost impossible to clean and stay mold-free.

DO NOT PAINT OVER MOLDY SURFACES

Painting over mold will make the surface more likely to peel and does not remove or kill the mold.

HIRE A RESTORATION SPECIALIST

Hard-to-clean mold, like black mold, should be removed by a restoration company. They can help you find hard-to-spot mold and take actions to remove the mold permanently.



PREVENT A BURST/FREEZING PIPE

To avoid a burst pipe, here are some tips you can do to make sure that your pipes don't freeze:

DISCONNECT AND PROPERLY STORE YOUR GARDEN HOSE

You can go the extra mile by installing an outside faucet insulator. If you don't properly store your hoses during the winter, the water inside the hose can freeze and build up pressure, causing a burst pipe.

INSULATE PIPES WITH FOAM IN AREAS WITH NO HEAT

Some areas, such as a basement or attic, might have pipes that are more likely to freeze.

KEEP THE HEATER ON WHILE AWAY FROM HOME

To prevent your pipes from freezing while you're away from home, set your thermostat between 50° and 60°

KEEP WATER RUNNING THROUGH EXPOSED PIPES.

The running water will prevent the pipes from freezing.

BURST PIPE

If you do not know how to fix a pipe, call a plumber. When you have a pipe burst, here's what you can do to prevent the damage from getting worse:

SHUT OFF YOUR WATER

The valve to shut off the water is usually located near the water heater. Turn clockwise to shut it off.

FIND THE BURST PIPE

If you don't know where it is/how to find it, call someone.

PATCH THE PIPE OR CALL SOMEONE TO FIX IT

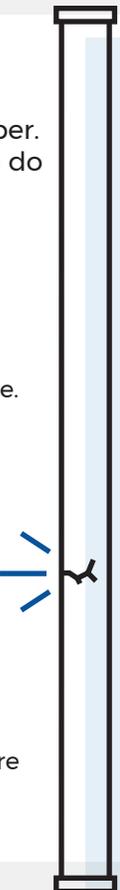
If you found the pipe but don't know how to fix it, don't try to fix it on your own, call a professional.

START REMOVING WATER

You can remove water by using a wet/dry vacuum or a mop and bucket.

DRY THE AFFECTED AREA OR HIRE A RESTORATION COMPANY

Invest in a good dehumidifier to help prevent mold growth or contact a restoration company to make sure your house is dry and mold-free.



MISCELLANEOUS EMERGENCIES

WIND DAMAGE/FALLEN TREE

Trees can fall over because of strong winds, and it can cause great damage to your home or even your neighbor's home. What should you do when wind has knocked over a tree? Try this:

ASSESS THE DAMAGE AND DANGER

If the fallen tree knocked over a power line, stay away from the line. Call the power company and the police.

CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE PROVIDER

It's important to note that the reason the tree fell over can help determine who has to file a claim.

TAKE PICTURES AND WRITE DOWN DETAILS

When you call, take pictures, write down specifics, and document as much of the problem as you can. The more evidence you have, the better.



GAS LEAK

A gas leak can become a real problem if it isn't detected in time. If there's a leak in your home, even just a slight spark can cause a big explosion. Here are some common signs of a gas leak:

SMELL

Natural gas has a distinct smell, usually related to the smell of a "rotten egg."

SOUND

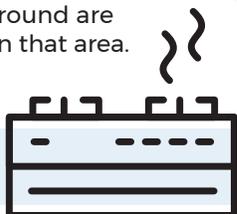
If gas is trying to escape a small hole, it usually creates pressure, which then creates a "hissing" noise.

BUBBLES

If gas is trying to escape where there's moisture, bubbles might form around the liquid.

DEAD PLANTS

If gas is escaping from the home, it may be killing certain plants. If there's a patch of dead shrubbery, even if the rest of the plants around are healthy, gas could be leaking in that area.



LEAKING ROOF

Sometimes it's hard to tell if there's a hole in your roof until it starts pouring. Unless you know exactly how to fix it, you probably should not try to fix it yourself. Here's what you should do:

CONTAIN THE WATER

The last thing you want to deal with after a leaky roof is bad water damage. Use buckets, trash cans, or storage bins to trap the water so that it doesn't get your carpet wet.

CALL YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY

Water damage repair may be part of your insurance policy.

CLEAR OUT YOUR GUTTERS

Make sure that the water falling on your roof has somewhere else to go besides in.

CALL A RESTORATION COMPANY

If a storm caused water damage, call a restoration company to not only clean up the water damage, but some companies can even help with the reconstruction your house needs to fix any damage caused by a storm.

If you find that you have a gas leak in your home or are unsure, here's what you should do:

OPEN WINDOWS AND DOORS

Create ways for the gas to escape. If gas builds up, it could cause a greater chance for an explosion if exposed to a spark or flame.

LEAVE YOUR HOME IMMEDIATELY

Do not try to find the source of the leak.

DO NOT USE ANY ELECTRICAL DEVICES, LIGHTERS, MATCHES, OR ANYTHING THAT COULD CREATE A SPARK IN YOUR HOME

Gas ignites easily, so make sure that any kind of electrical device you use does not generate heat in any way.

CALL A PROFESSIONAL TO FIND AND FIX THE LEAK

While there are ways to locate the leak, it's best to get a professional to fix the leak. If the gas was turned off, have professionals turn the gas back on.