

PERSONAL INSURANCE

Guarantee GOLD[®]

LOSS CONTROL TIPS – WATER DAMAGE



Over the past few years, water damage has become a major issue in all areas of Canada. In fact, this type of damage accounts for over 40% of all insurance claims across Canada.

As a Guarantee GOLD[®] policyholder you already benefit from the best insurance coverage and claims service available.

To maintain the value of your home and prevent the inconvenience of a water damage claim here are some prevention tips:

- Ⓒ If your **roof shows signs of deterioration** (water stains on ceilings, missing shingles, curled shingles, moss build-up) have a roofing contractor check the roof, particularly flashing and seals around chimneys and skylights and repair as necessary. As a result of this regular maintenance, your roof will last longer.
- Ⓒ **Inadequate venting and/or roof insulation** can create ice damming on the roof. This could cause water to back up and enter into the home causing water damage. A roofing contractor should be contacted to inspect and insure venting and insulation is adequate. This too will prolong the life expectancy of your roof.
- Ⓒ **Cracks in exterior walls or foundations** can lead to water damage or mould in your home. Should you notice any exterior cracks they should be promptly repaired by a masonry contractor to prevent any further damage.
- Ⓒ **Leaking hot water tanks** can cause considerable water damage to your home. Tank life expectancy varies but we recommend that the tank be replaced by a plumber when it is 8-10 years old.
- Ⓒ **Burst or leaking water supply pipes** can cause water damage to your home. To prevent this from occurring you should have a plumber install a monitored automatic water shutoff system in your home. The installation of this device will minimize water damage and entitle you to a premium reduction.
- Ⓒ A **sump pump** in your home requires regular maintenance. It should be checked and tested annually to insure proper operation. Not doing so may result in inadequate sump pump operation resulting in water damage. Additional things to consider include a battery back-up, a local “high water” alarm, or a monitored high water sensor tied into a monitored alarm system which may entitle you to a premium reduction.
- Ⓒ Consider the installation of a **backwater check valve** to prevent sewer back-up. Check with your local municipality beforehand to see if there are any by-laws or regulations concerning this type of valve. If you already have a backwater check valve installed, have it checked yearly by a plumber to make sure it is functioning properly.

Taking all of this into account, it is important to remember that prevention is not only an insurance concern, but will help maintain the value of your home and possibly increase its resale value.



Proud Supporter of Brokers
Displaying this Symbol

“We have time for you!”
SINCE 1872

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS GENERAL INFORMATION AND IS NOT PART OF THE POLICY. THE TERMS OF THE INSURANCE CONTRACT APPLY IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

gna.com