

PLUMBING TIPS

Minor leak in the pipe-line

Place a container under the leak and contact a plumber.

Plugged toilets, drains or sewer line

As certain materials build up in the pipes, they greatly reduce water-flow through the waste system. Toilets can easily become plugged, as they use very little water when flushing away waste.

Plugging (blockage) generally occurs as a result of flushing inappropriate materials down a toilet, drain or sewer line. Do not put the following waste down them:

- Grease.
- Fat.
- Petroleum products.
- Rice or other food products.
- Hair.
- Cloth.
- Paper towels or Kleenex.
- Lint.
- Diapers.
- Sanitary products.
- Q-tips
- Plastic.

Use a drain protector in your shower to help prevent drain blockage.

NOTE: DO NOT use toilets, sinks or drains if they are plugged! Use a plunger to unclog the line. If large blockage occurs, call a plumber.

Sinks

To prevent sink blockage:

- Do not put food products down the drain – **especially rice products.**
- Use a drain protector in your sink to help prevent drain blockage.

NOTE: Rice products expand in the pipes causing blockage, and potential flooding. If large blockage occurs, call a plumber.

Water Line Burst

A water line can burst due to a number of reasons, such as a loose joint, freezing, etc. Deal with it immediately.

- If the burst occurs between a fixture and a shut-off valve, close the shut-off valve.
- If this type of shut-off valve doesn't exist, locate the main shut-off valve in your suite, and turn it off until you can repair the problem.

Toilet water tank

When the toilet flushes, water in the tank rises. This in turn lifts a ball-float to a preset water level. The water flow valve shuts off once the ball-float reaches this level. If the preset water level is set too high, the water rises in the tank and runs down the overflow pipe into the toilet bowl without water shutting off.

NOTE: If your toilet has a blockage when this happens, water overflows and a flood results!

Stop toilet from filling:

Adjust the height of the ball-float (under the toilet tank lid) so the water is shut off before it reaches the height of the overflow outlet. If water continuously runs into the toilet bowl from the tank, check for a poor seal at the flapper valve at the base of the tank.

- Clean the seal at the flapper valve with a stiff brush or steel wool.
- Replace flapper valve if it is worn.

Stop toilet from dripping:

Condensation on the tank, not a connection leak, causes water to drip from the base of the toilet tank. When the toilet tank refills with cold water, high humidity causes condensation on the tank surface.

To stop this from happening:

- Reduce humidity and turn on your bathroom dehumidifier (dial switch on wall) or exhaust fan.
- Increase ventilation in your suite (open a window).

Tub and Shower Enclosures

Place your shower curtain where it prevents water from running onto the bathroom floor when you shower. To prevent floors or walls from damage, mop up and dry any water on the floor immediately.

Use caulking to seal seams and prevent water from entering behind the shower enclosure. If a separation occurs around your bathtub and the wall tiles, or between the wall and the enclosure itself:

- Remove the old caulking.
- Clean the area of any soap scum or residue.
- Fill the area with a tub sealer or caulking compound when dry (buy at any home supply center).
- Wait for 24 hours before using the tub.

NOTE: Leaving the gaps unsealed causes serious water damage to tiling or walls.

Apply a clear liquid silicone sealant to the tiled grout joints of tub or shower enclosures. Do this every six months to stop the porous grout from absorbing water into the material behind the tiles.

NOTE: This is a liquid product. Do not confuse it with silicon-based caulking.