



Emergency Preparedness Checklist & Guide

Don't Panic, Prepare! This guide helps you take steps now to feel ready for potential water or fire emergencies. For a personalized checklist, click "File" -> "Make a copy" in the Google Doc.

Before Disaster Strikes

- Locate Shut-offs:** Knowing where to cut off water and utilities is crucial.
 - Water main:** Often in the basement, garage, or near the street. Check with your city for typical locations.
 - Gas** (if applicable): Usually near the meter.
 - Electrical panel:** Look for a metal box, often in utility areas.
- Home Inventory:** Documenting possessions helps with insurance claims.
 - Photos/Videos:** Walk through your home, taking visuals of each room's contents. Pay special attention to high-value items.
 - Written List:** Include serial numbers, model numbers, and estimated purchase dates for major appliances and electronics.
 - Storage:** Use cloud storage for photos, or keep a physical copy of the list in a fireproof safe or off-site.
- Spot Potential Risks:** Proactive maintenance can prevent emergencies.
 - Appliances:** Check hoses on washing machines, dishwashers, etc. for bulges or cracks.
 - Roof & Gutters:** Look for missing shingles, damaged flashing, or clogged gutters.
 - Water Heater:** Note any signs of rust or leaks around the base.
- Emergency Contacts:** Have these numbers easily accessible.
 - Plumber:** Choose a reliable one for non-disaster leaks too!
 - Restoration Company (iDry Columbus):** [\[614-810-0000\]](tel:614-810-0000)
 - Insurance Agent:**
 - Electrician** (if applicable):

Don't Let Water Damage Become a Disaster! Contact iDry Columbus, your trusted restoration experts. Call [\[614-810-0000\]](tel:614-810-0000) or visit [\[www.idrycolumbus.com\]](http://www.idrycolumbus.com) for a free consultation.



Immediate Action: Water Damage

1. **Stop the Source:** Turn off the leaking fixture/appliance or the main water shut-off if needed.
2. **Power Off (if safe):** Electrical hazards are a serious risk with water. Turn off power to the affected area at the breaker panel.
3. **Remove Water:** Act fast to minimize damage.
 - a. **Standing water:** Use mops, buckets, or a wet/dry vacuum
 - b. **Absorbent materials:** Towels, blankets can soak up water quickly
4. **Ventilate:** Improve airflow to prevent mold.
 - a. **Open windows:** Weather permitting, let fresh air in.
 - b. **Fans:** Position fans to blow air across damp areas and toward open windows.
5. **Document the Damage:** Photos or videos help with insurance claims.

Immediate Action: Fire Damage

1. **Evacuate & Call 911:** Safety is the absolute priority
2. **Don't Touch:** Soot and debris can contain hazardous materials.
3. **Ventilate (if safe):** Open windows to air out smoke.
4. **Secure the Property (if safe):** Board up broken windows or tarp damaged roof sections to prevent further damage.

Don't Let Water Damage Become a Disaster! Contact iDry Columbus, your trusted restoration experts. Call [[614-810-0000](tel:614-810-0000)] or visit [www.idrycolumbus.com] for a free consultation.



When to Call a Professional

- ★ **Structural Concerns:** Cracks, sagging, or buckling require expert assessment.
- ★ **Large Area Affected:** [Flooding throughout a room or multiple rooms](#) is best handled by professionals with specialized equipment.
- ★ **Suspected Mold:** Don't risk your health. Mold assessment and safe removal may be necessary.
- ★ **Electrical Damage:** Any damage to outlets, wiring, or appliances needs a qualified electrician.
- ★ **Overwhelmed Feeling:** It's okay to ask for help! Restoring a home after a disaster is a huge undertaking.

Resources

- [iDry Columbus Emergency Restoration Services](#)
- **American Red Cross Disaster Resources:** [\[Link\]](#)
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** [\[Link\]](#)

Preventative Maintenance Tips

- **Inspect Appliances Regularly:** Check for leaks, frayed cords, or unusual noises.
- **Clean Gutters & Downspouts:** Clogs can lead to roof leaks and water damage.
- **Test Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Replace batteries as needed.
- **Have a Fire Extinguisher:** Keep one accessible and know how to use it.

Don't Let Water Damage Become a Disaster! Contact iDry Columbus, your trusted restoration experts. Call [\[614-810-0000\]](tel:614-810-0000) or visit [\[www.idrycolumbus.com\]](http://www.idrycolumbus.com) for a free consultation.