Plumbing Prevention Quick Guide

Simple habits that prevent expensive plumbing problems

Monthly Check

- Look under every sink: water stains, mineral crust, soft cabinet bottoms, musty smell.
- Inspect washing-machine hoses for bulges, cracks, or rust at the connections.
- Check the water-heater base for any moisture or rust streaks.
- Listen for running toilets. Phantom flushes waste hundreds of gallons a month.
- Watch your water bill; sudden spikes often mean a hidden leak.

Inland Empire Specifics

- **Hard water:** flush your water heater once a year, because tanks fill with sediment fast here.
- **High water pressure:** pressure runs high across Southern California. Normal is 50 to 70 PSI; above 80 PSI is too high. Have your pressure regulator tested every year.
- **Slab leaks:** watch for warm spots on floors, running water when nothing's on, and unexplained bill spikes.
- **Santa Ana winds & rains:** clear yard and area drains before storms so water doesn't pool at the foundation.
- Replace rubber washer hoses with braided stainless steel. Cheap insurance against a flooded laundry room.

Avoid These Common Mistakes

- Never pour grease, oil, or fat down the drain; it solidifies and clogs.
- Keep hair-catcher screens in showers and tubs.
- Skip chemical drain cleaners: they damage pipes. Use a plunger or hand snake.
- Fix a running toilet fast. It's usually an inexpensive flapper or fill valve.

Emergency Basics

Know where your main shut-off valve is. For a burst pipe: shut off the main, drain the lowest faucet, turn off the water heater (never touch electrics while standing in water), and call Sweetwater Plumbing at **(909) 312-4516**.

Emergency Numbers: fill in & tape inside a cabinet

Sweetwater Plumbing (24/7) (909) 312-4516 **Sweetwater text line** (909) 247-6791

SoCalGas leak hotline 1-800-427-2200 **City water department*** _____

** Find your Inland Empire city water department number at **sweetwaterplumbing247.com/guides***