The Homeowner's Plumbing Quick Guide

The essentials: emergencies, prevention, and when to call

Find Your Shut-Off Valves Now

The single most important thing any homeowner can do. Locate your main water valve: in most Inland Empire homes it's outside on an exterior wall near the front hose bib, in the garage, or at a curb box. Then find your fixture valves under sinks and behind toilets. Label them. You won't have time to learn this during an emergency.

Top 5 Emergency Moves

- **Burst pipe:** shut the main valve, drain the lowest faucet, turn off the water heater (never touch electrics while standing in water), contain water.
- **Overflowing toilet:** close the valve behind the bowl, then plunge with a flange plunger.
- **Sewer backup:** stop using all water immediately; every flush makes it worse.
- **Water heater leak:** shut the cold inlet, kill power or gas.
- **Gas smell:** leave first and call SoCalGas (1-800-427-2200) and 911 from outside. Don't flip switches. Shut the gas off at the meter only if it's safe, from outside. Once it is safe, call Sweetwater to find and repair the leak.

Prevent the Big Problems

- Flush your water heater yearly. Inland Empire hard water means fast sediment buildup.
- Water pressure runs high across Southern California: have your pressure regulator tested every year.
- Watch for slab leaks: warm floor spots, running water with everything off, water-bill spikes.
- Never pour grease down the drain; keep hair screens in showers.
- Clear yard and area drains before winter rains and after Santa Ana winds.

When to Call Sweetwater

Slab leaks, sewer backups, water-heater replacement, high or house-wide low pressure, repiping, or anything behind a wall. Call **(909) 312-4516** (24/7) or text **(909) 247-6791** (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.).

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***