

Common Plumbing Leaks That Occur in Homes

When pipes leak, they can cause serious damage to your home. Often, the first sign is water stains or soft spots in your ceiling or walls.

Leaks waste water and encourage unwanted pests like cockroaches, rats, and mosquitoes. Understanding the most common plumbing leaks that occur in homes can help you catch and resolve them quickly.

Old Pipes

Old houses have many charming features, including original crown molding, stained glass windows, herringbone-patterned wood floors, and 100-year-old trees in the yard. Unfortunately, old homes also tend to have outdated plumbing systems that may not stand up to the test of time.

Over the years, natural shifting of your home's foundation can cause pipes buried underground to shift downward. This creates a negative slope in your pipes, which causes them to bow and restrict water flow. This makes the pipes work harder, which shortens their lifespan and can lead to a severe leak or even pipe burst.

Another problem that affects [older pipes](#) is corrosion. Many older homes have piping made of materials such as galvanized steel or iron, which can rust and corrode over time. In these cases, a plumber can inspect the pipes and recommend replacing them with more durable, longer-lasting materials.

Faucets

Dripping faucets are a nuisance and a waste of water, but they can also lead to significant household damage. If left unattended, these leaks can rot the sink base, cause mold growth, and eventually result in a sagging ceiling or floor. They can also leave behind stains, cause increased water bills, and create a humid environment that is conducive to pests.

Pipe leaks can be difficult to spot because they are typically out of sight and out of mind. However, there are certain signs you should look out for, such as unexplained puddles or a musty smell. If you notice these symptoms, it's best to call a plumber as soon as possible.

While it may seem insignificant, every drop of water counts when it comes to your plumbing system. Leaks waste water and increase your energy bills, and they can lead to rotting, mold growth, and structural damage. Fixing them early on can prevent these problems and save you money in the long run.

Toilets

A leaking toilet is a serious problem that should be addressed immediately. Not only does it waste water and drive up utility bills, but it can also cause moisture damage that can rot floor surfaces and wood framing. It can also attract cockroaches, mosquitoes and other pests that thrive in moist environments.

Internal leaks in a toilet's tank are often caused by a worn-out flapper or fill valve. If these parts fail, you'll have a continuous leak that could waste hundreds of gallons per day and increase your water bill significantly.

Other causes of internal toilet leaks include a deteriorated wax ring, misaligned valves or an overflow tube that needs to be replaced. Checking your float and flapper regularly and having a plumber repair or replace them when needed is an inexpensive way to prevent these common plumbing leaks.

Water Heaters

Whether you're looking for the sound of dripping water, musty smells or a sudden increase in your water bill, it's important to recognize and respond to any signs of leaks. By doing so, you can prevent further damage to your property and squandering of water resources.

Over time, wear and tear and age can cause your pipes to corrode and develop leaks. A little bit of regular maintenance can help minimize the chances of this happening. This includes checking for corrosion around your appliances, monitoring the water meter, flushing your water heater occasionally and keeping drain lines clear of debris.

Plumbing leaks are often overlooked, but they can lead to expensive property damage. The sooner you call a plumber, the better. The [best plumber in Melbourne](#) may tell you that by understanding the most common causes of leaks, you can take proactive steps to avoid them. This way, you can enjoy your home without worrying about water damage.