

Around the House
Plumbing Article #1 – Emergency Shut Off

Headline

When Disaster Strikes, Here's How to Strike Back.

Subhead

By observing a few simple emergency shut-off procedures, you can help protect your family during a natural disaster.

Text

When Mother Nature comes calling with anything other than sweet sunshine and balmy temperatures, you have cause for concern. Especially when “she” decides to send the extreme stuff, like an earthquake, hurricane, or tornado.

Today, (company name) is pleased to present a few ideas on **how, when and why to turn off your main water and power supplies.**

Water Shut-Off Procedures

Following a natural disaster, conduct a visual inspection for leaks in your various plumbing systems. Also, check your water supply lines by turning water faucets on and off. **If the cold water stops running, runs very slowly after a few seconds, or is dirty, you most likely have a leak.**

In that event, you'll want to shut off your main water supply. There are two basic means:

- Turn off the water where it enters the house...in many homes, there's a valve just below your main outdoor faucet;
- Or, you can shut down your water supply by turning the valve attached to your water meter.

Water valves either have round or lever-type handles. With a lever, make a one-quarter turn to shut off your water. With a round handle, turn it clockwise until it stops turning. And if you don't have a main water shut off, you should have one installed.

Power Shut-Off Procedures

In the immediate aftermath of a storm, **do not turn lights on or off or use matches if you have gas heat!** Instead, use flashlights to check for gas leaks to prevent an explosion or fire. If you do hear or smell a leak, shut off your gas valve and immediately open your doors and windows to vent the accumulated gas.

Also, **if you hear sparking sounds or see or smell smoke**, turn off your electrical power. If your house has fuses, you'll find a knife switch or pull-out fuse that should be marked "Main." If you have a circuit breaker, turn off the small breakers first, and then the "Main" breaker. But whatever you do, never remove the metal cover.

For more information on how to protect your home following a natural disaster, call us today. Also, you can **save \$50 savings on a complete inspection of all your plumbing fixtures and systems** with the coupon below.

Main Coupon

Home Plumbing Inspection

Save \$50...

...on a complete inspection of your home plumbing systems and fixtures. This offer may not be combined with any other discount or promotion.

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Teaser Copy

Inside This Issue of “Around the House”...

With proper planning, you can help spare your home from the ravages of severe weather.

Plus...

3 Coupons You Can Use Now!