



Washing Machine Water Damage Prevention

An unattended burst hose from a washing machine can leak hundreds of gallons of water an hour, causing significant damage around and below the washing machine. It is one of the most common causes of catastrophic water damage in homes. A number of things can cause hose failure, including improper hose installation or insufficient clearances. Hoses under constant water pressure can also lose resiliency as they age and can crack or burst without warning. Consider the following tips to prevent water damage from a washing machine:

Manufacture's Installation Guidelines

- Follow manufacture's installation and maintenance guidelines.

Clearance

- Maintain at least 4" clearance away from the wall so the supply and drain hoses do not become kinked.

Drain Hose

- Check the drain hose to ensure it is fully inserted into the main drain line. Make sure it is secure and has not become dislodged as the washer agitates or drains.

Supply Hoses

- Inspect hoses at least twice a year and replace if there are any signs of swollen points, kinks, cracks, stiffness or brittleness. Pay close attention to the ends of hoses near connections.
- Check the connections to ensure they are secure and have no leaks, drips, rust, discoloration or moisture on or around hoses and connections. Repair leaking connections or replace deteriorated hoses immediately.
- Replace hoses with reinforced stainless steel braided hoses. Hoses older than five years or that show any sign of damage should be replaced.

Supply Valves

- Turn off supply valve when not in use or away for extended periods of time to relieve water pressure in hoses. Leaving a washing machine's valves open all the time greatly increases the chance of a catastrophic hose burst.
- Have a licensed plumber replace supply valves with automatic shut off valves with water sensors. The automatic washing machine shutoff valve uses an electronic control device that senses electrical current to the washing machine, thus opening both the hot and cold water valves. When the cycle is finished and not drawing electricity, the valves close until the machine is used again. The automatic operation, coupled with a floor mounted leak sensor, protects against water damage should a washing machine hose burst while the machine is in use.



The information, suggestions and recommendations contained herein are for general informational purposes only. This information has been compiled from sources believed to be reliable. Risk Consulting Services do not address every possible loss potential, law, rule, regulation, practice or procedure. No warranty, guarantee, or representation, either expressed or implied, is made as to the correctness or sufficiency of any such service. Reliance upon, or compliance with, any recommendation in no way guarantees any result, including without limitation the fulfillment of your obligations under your insurance policy or as may otherwise be required by any laws, rules or regulations. No responsibility is assumed for the discovery and/or elimination of any hazards that could cause accidents, injury or damage. The information contained herein should not be construed as financial, accounting, tax or legal advice and does not create an attorney-client relationship.

This document is not intended to replace any recommendations from your equipment manufacturers. If you are unsure about any particular testing or maintenance procedure, please contact the manufacturer or your equipment service representative.

American International Group, Inc. (AIG) is a leading global insurance organization. AIG member companies provide a wide range of property casualty insurance, life insurance, retirement solutions, and other financial services to customers in more than 80 countries and jurisdictions. These diverse offerings include products and services that help businesses and individuals protect their assets, manage risks and provide for retirement security. AIG common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Additional information about AIG can be found at www.aig.com | YouTube: www.youtube.com/aig | Twitter: [@AIGinsurance](https://twitter.com/AIGinsurance) www.twitter.com/AIGinsurance | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/aig. These references with additional information about AIG have been provided as a convenience, and the information contained on such websites is not incorporated by reference into this document.

AIG is the marketing name for the worldwide property-casualty, life and retirement, and general insurance operations of American International Group, Inc. For additional information, please visit our website at www.aig.com. All products and services are written or provided by subsidiaries or affiliates of American International Group, Inc. Products or services may not be available in all countries and jurisdictions, and coverage is subject to underwriting requirements and actual policy language. Non-insurance products and services may be provided by independent third parties. Certain property-casualty coverages may be provided by a surplus lines insurer. Surplus lines insurers do not generally participate in state guaranty funds, and insureds are therefore not protected by such funds.

© American International Group, Inc. All rights reserved.