Your water shutoff card

Fill it in together. Keep a copy on the fridge.

GET FAMILIAR BEFORE A LEAK

- [ ] Ask your plumber or property manager to identify the home's own main water shutoff and show you how it works. Label it and keep access clear.
- [ ] Find the individual water valves at toilets, sinks and appliances. A stuck, corroded or unfamiliar valve needs professional attention; never force it.

IF WATER STARTS ESCAPING

- [ ] Keep people and pets clear. Do not enter standing water near electricity, touch wet electrical equipment or go beneath a sagging ceiling.
- [ ] If access is safe and you know the valve, close the affected fixture's water valve or the home's main water shutoff. Leave utility-owned street valves to the utility.
- [ ] Call for help. Renters should also notify the property manager. For sewage, stop using water and keep clear of the affected area.

Suspect a gas leak? Leave immediately. Avoid switches, flames and phones in the area. From a safe location, call your gas utility; call 911 for immediate danger. Do not search for or repair the leak.

Home water shutoff location

Water utility emergency phone

Property manager / trusted contact

Source: Long Beach utility safety guide (water shutoff)
Source: SoCalGas natural gas leak guidance

The find-a-leak worksheet

Start with a quick walk-through. Allow two hours for the optional meter check.

LOOK, LISTEN, THEN WRITE IT DOWN

- [ ] Check accessible areas under sinks, around toilets and near appliance hoses for drips, dampness or staining. Do not move heavy appliances or open walls.
- [ ] Listen for a toilet that refills when no one has flushed. Record where and when it happens.
- [ ] For a standard tank toilet, add a few drops of food coloring to the tank. Wait 10 minutes without flushing. Color in the bowl indicates a leak. Flush immediately afterward to help avoid staining.

OPTIONAL: A NO-USE METER CHECK

- [ ] If your meter is safely accessible and serves only your home, record its reading. Arrange a two-hour period with no water use, including irrigation and automatic appliances.
- [ ] Read it again. A change may indicate a leak or an overlooked water use. Ask your utility or plumber to help interpret the result; a shared meter cannot isolate your unit.

These checks find clues, not every hidden leak. Active leaking, new dampness or an unexplained usage increase deserves prompt attention.

First meter reading / time

Second meter reading / time

Location, dye-test result and next step

Source: epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week

Healthy habits for your drains

Post near the sink or share with everyone in the household.

SMALL HABITS THAT HELP

- [ ] Let cooking grease cool in a suitable container, then put it in the trash. Wipe greasy cookware before washing; do not pour fats or oils into the sink or disposal.
- [ ] Use a sink strainer and a shower hair catcher. Empty collected scraps and hair into the trash.
- [ ] Keep a small bathroom bin handy. Only human waste and toilet paper belong in the toilet; wipes, floss, paper towels and hygiene products go in the bin.

SKIP THESE SHORTCUTS

- [ ] Hot water does not make grease safe for the drain. The grease can build up farther along the plumbing.
- [ ] Baking soda and vinegar fizz is not a dependable fix for a stubborn clog. Recurring slow drains need the cause investigated.
- [ ] Do not mix drain cleaners with other products or home remedies. If a cleaner is already in a blocked drain, stop DIY work and tell the plumber exactly what you used.

Multiple backed-up fixtures or sewage coming up? Stop using water and call a plumber. Keep children and pets away. For a chemical exposure, call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222; call 911 for immediate danger.

Where we keep our grease container / drain catchers

A recurring problem to get checked

Source: ocsan.gov/fog
Source: ocsan.gov/what2flush
Source: poison.org/articles/whats-in-drain-cleaner

Your monthly plumbing check

Pick a memorable day each month. Follow appliance manuals for service schedules.

WALK THROUGH THE HOME

- [ ] Under sinks: look for moisture, staining or a new musty smell. Keep enough space to see the plumbing.
- [ ] Toilets and faucets: note drips, refilling sounds, loose fixtures or water around the base. Use the leak worksheet for a tank-toilet dye test.
- [ ] Visible supply hoses: look for damp connections, cracks, bulges or corrosion. Arrange repairs; do not tug on hoses or move heavy appliances.
- [ ] Drains: empty removable strainers and note slow drainage or repeated gurgling. Do not treat recurring clogs with repeated chemical doses.
- [ ] Water heater: from a safe, dry spot, look for new puddles or visible corrosion. Keep the area clear. Leave valves, gas/electrical work and servicing to a qualified professional.
- [ ] Outdoors and records: check accessible hose bibs for drips, review unusual water usage, and make sure your shutoff information is easy to find.

This is a visual household routine, not a required service interval or a substitute for a plumber's inspection. Deal with active leaks when you find them.

☐ JAN	☐ FEB	☐ MAR	☐ APR	☐ MAY	☐ JUN
☐ JUL	☐ AUG	☐ SEP	☐ OCT	☐ NOV	☐ DEC

Month / findings / action needed

Next check date / person responsible

Source: epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week
Source: Long Beach utility safety guide (water shutoff)

Before you go away

Prepare ahead of travel day so there is time to address a problem.

BEFORE LEAVING

- [ ] Walk through accessible plumbing areas. Address active leaks, running toilets and suspect appliance hoses before the trip.
- [ ] Let the dishwasher and washing machine finish while someone is home. Check around them for water afterward.
- [ ] Show a trusted contact the home's water shutoff and leave your plumber, utility and property-manager numbers.
- [ ] If you already use leak sensors, test them according to their instructions and check that alerts reach the intended person.
- [ ] Discuss any planned water shutoff with your plumber or property manager. Shared supplies, fire sprinklers, irrigation and appliances may need water. Follow equipment instructions; do not assume shutting everything off is suitable.

WHEN YOU GET BACK

- [ ] Check for moisture or unusual sounds before using appliances. If water was shut off, follow the agreed restart instructions; never energize an empty water heater.
- [ ] For an extended absence, ask your utility about returning plumbing to use and follow any current water advisories. Do not improvise a disinfection procedure.

This is a household handoff checklist, not a winterization or vacant-building procedure. A long vacancy needs a plan tailored to the property.

Trusted contact / phone

Agreed water and appliance plan

Return date / follow-up needed

Source: epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week
Source: Long Beach utility safety guide (water shutoff)

Make the most of your visit

Write what you have noticed. You do not need to diagnose the cause.

A LITTLE PREPARATION HELPS

- [ ] Note which fixtures are affected, when it began, and whether it is constant or intermittent. Take photos only from a safe, dry place.
- [ ] List any recent plumbing work, changed appliances or products poured into the drain. Keep product names available for the plumber.
- [ ] Clear a safe path, secure pets and coordinate access with the property manager if needed. Do not dismantle fixtures to prepare.
- [ ] Ask what was found, what work is recommended, what the estimate includes and what maintenance to follow afterward. Keep the written scope and service record.

Do not delay an active leak or unsafe condition to finish this sheet. If water may contact electricity, keep clear. For immediate danger call 911.

Affected fixture / room

What happens / when it started

Recent work / products used

Questions I want to ask

Recommended work / agreed next step

Source: poison.org/articles/whats-in-drain-cleaner
Source: Long Beach utility safety guide (water shutoff)