



Water Damage Restoration Checklist for Homeowners

A clear, professional emergency guide to protect your home, health, and insurance claim.

Key Takeaways Before You Dive In

- Act quickly and in the right order to limit damage and repair costs.
- Document everything for insurance purposes.
- Surface drying alone is not enough to prevent mould.
- Professional restoration protects your property and claim.

Why You Need a Water Damage Restoration Checklist

Water spreads rapidly through structures and hidden areas. A checklist prevents costly mistakes, supports insurance claims, and brings clarity during emergencies.

Step 1 — Ensure Safety First

Shut off electricity if water reaches outlets or appliances. Avoid standing water near power sources. Wear protective gear whenever possible.

Step 2 — Stop the Water Source Immediately

Shut off the main water supply for plumbing issues. If the source is hidden, avoid invasive inspection and contact professionals.

Step 3 — Document the Damage Thoroughly

Take photos and videos of all affected areas before cleanup begins. This documentation is critical for insurance.

Step 4 — Begin Emergency Water Removal

Remove standing water quickly. DIY removal is suitable only for small, clean spills.

Step 5 — Protect Belongings and Furniture

Move items out of wet areas and elevate furniture. Do not discard damaged items before documentation.

Step 6 — Start Drying and Dehumidification

Increase airflow and remove damp materials. Hidden moisture requires professional dehumidification.

Step 7 — Prevent Mould Growth

Mould can form within 24–48 hours. Monitor odours, stains, and humidity levels closely.

Insurance Checklist: Protecting Your Water Damage Claim

Notify your insurer promptly, keep receipts, and follow all reporting requirements.

When to Call a Professional Water Damage Restoration Company

Professional help is essential when structural materials or contaminated water are involved.

From Water Chaos to Confident Action

Following this checklist helps homeowners move from emergency to recovery with confidence.