

Published based on [Homeowner Tips on Dealing With Water Leaks in the Basement](#)

# **Homeowner Tips on Dealing With Water Leaks in the Basement**

Many people who witness the devastating effects of flooding wonder what they'd do if their home flooded. Driving through entire neighborhoods in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in the aftermath of the floods of 2008 made it infinitely clear that flood damage is devastating as about 90% of the homes in certain areas were damaged beyond repair. Homeowners that don't live in a flood plain can also experience water damage. Although it causes a huge mess, there are things you can do to fix it.

One of the first things you should do is turn off power to your basement. You'll limit the risk of someone getting shocked since water and electricity are dangerous together. Once the power is safely off, you can look for the source of the water in order to plug it as much as possible. If you don't do anything, the water will keep rising and cause even more damage. If the leak can't be plugged and seems to be coming from the floor drains, call your city water department and discuss your problem with them. Some water problems can be caused by inadequate storm sewers which is a city concern.

When you've done everything you can do to stop further damage, you can begin carrying out your possessions. This may be a very disheartening process as everything will be wet and dripping. You will likely need to throw away some things and keep others. There is no salvaging certain things, such as books and other paper items, so you may want to just give them up as a loss without spending any time trying to dry them.

Once the basement is cleared out, you need to address getting the water out. As long as you allow the water to stay there, it will only cause more damage to your home. In addition, standing water can create mold and mildew problems. If you don't want to hire a professional, then you'll need to get a pump and try to remove the water yourself. The professionals may also be equipped to do the clean-up for you, too, as the entire area will need to be thoroughly cleaned, sanitized, and dried. Doc No. azlcssaeh-sdghkl

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