PRINT IT · ONE SHEET

First-hour water damage checklist

The six steps

When water gets in

TOP TO BOTTOM

1 BEFORE YOU STEP IN

Check for danger

Water near outlets, cords, a space heater or the breaker panel means stay out. So does a ceiling that bulges or sags.

2 STOP IT

Close a valve

Use the small stop under the fixture if the leak is there. Otherwise turn the main shutoff where the line enters the house. A gas smell means leave first, then call 911 and Kansas Gas Service.

3 EVIDENCE

Take pictures, then move things

One wide photo per room, close shots of the source and the waterline, then the damaged belongings.

4 SAVE WHAT YOU CAN

Rescue what wicks

Paper, books, photos, rugs and cardboard come off the floor first. Foil under furniture feet stops stains from spreading upward.

5 WRITE IT DOWN

Note the time and the cause

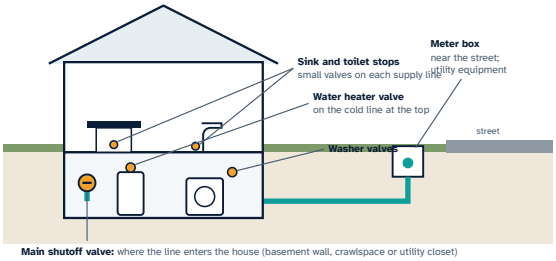
Jot down when you found the water and what failed. Say so if it smells like sewage.

6 GET IT PUMPED

Line up extraction

Towels will not reach water in carpet pad or wall cavities. EPA's drying window for wet materials is 24 to 48 hours.

TYPICAL LAYOUT, NOT YOUR HOUSE: FIND YOURS BEFORE YOU NEED IT



Find your main shutoff today and make sure it turns. A valve that has sat for years can seize, and forcing it with a wrench can break it.

Numbers to have ready

NUMBER	FOR
911	Anyone in danger, fire, or a gas smell after you are outside
888-482-4950	Kansas Gas Service gas emergencies
(316) 262-6000	City of Wichita, emergency water leaks and sewer stoppages, weekday hours
800-383-1183	Evergy, Kansas Central area (check your bill for your area)