

## The 5 Best Ways to Prepare Your Home's Plumbing for Summer



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Summer 2020 is going to look a lot different than we planned. Thanks to Coronavirus, most summer programs, including day and overnight camps, have been cancelled. That means two things: 1) more stress on your home-plumbing system and 2) adding camp counselor, coach, and summer school teacher to the many hats you're already wearing. Now is the best time to get ahead of any plumbing problems that may arise by preparing your home for the summer season.

### 1. Test Your Sump Pump

We've been getting pounded by heavy rains, and consider yourself lucky if you haven't experienced flooding or other water damage. If recent summers are any indication, more rain will be in the forecast this year. To that end, be sure to test your sump pump now by first, checking to see that it's turned on and next, pouring water down to see if the pump processes it. However, there are many ways a sump pump can malfunction, including a system that's designed poorly or uneven flooring that makes it easy for water to spill out.

If you do have flooding, keep an eye on your water heater. If the controls get soaked, the warranty is voided. Even when they dry, debris may have gotten trapped in there, which can

cause your heater to run hot and potentially start a fire. Also, never store paints or chemicals near the heater because the fumes can damage the controls and can cause an explosion.

Rather than take any chances, have your plumber take a look.

## **2. Clean Gutters and Downspouts**

The out-of-sight, out-of-mind approach works until a problem is visible. It's easy to forget about your gutters and downspouts with everything else on your mind, but they are vital for draining water from your roof. When gutters and downspouts clog, water pools and can leak into your home.

## **3. Check for Leaks**

Speaking of leaks, water is used more during the summer than the other seasons, and that will only be exacerbated by stay-at-home orders. A higher volume and passage of water means greater potential for your pipes, taps, and sprinkler systems to leak. Despite your excitement to turn on that lawn faucet for the first time this year, remember to check the basement for leaks regularly so that you're not surprised by flooding. In addition to paying for water-damage repairs, overuse of water will most likely raise your water bill. Pick up the phone and schedule a routine check with your plumber.

## **4. Inspect Your Washing Machine Connections**

Just because summer programs are cancelled doesn't mean your kids will get any less dirty. If you're lucky, all that sweat, dirt, mud, and bicycle grease will absorb into your kids' clothes and not your furniture or carpeting. Nevertheless, dirty laundry needs to be cleaned and puts a burden on your washing machine. Before the never-ending loads of laundry go in, it's prudent to inspect the connections and condition of the hoses. Leave the heavy-lifting for your plumber, who will need to pull the unit back from the wall to also look for cracks in the wall, water, mold, or mildew.

## **5. Schedule a Plumbing Inspection**

The whole of your plumbing system is greater than the sum of its parts. Instead of addressing each of these items separately, it's best to schedule an appointment with your plumber to address any existing issues and to prevent future problems.

**We Are Here to Help You Enjoy Your Summer**

This summer won't be ideal, but Alan Tinker Plumbing & Rodding can make it better by thoroughly inspecting your home to ensure your plumbing is working right. [Contact](#) us, and we'll get back to you ASAP!

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