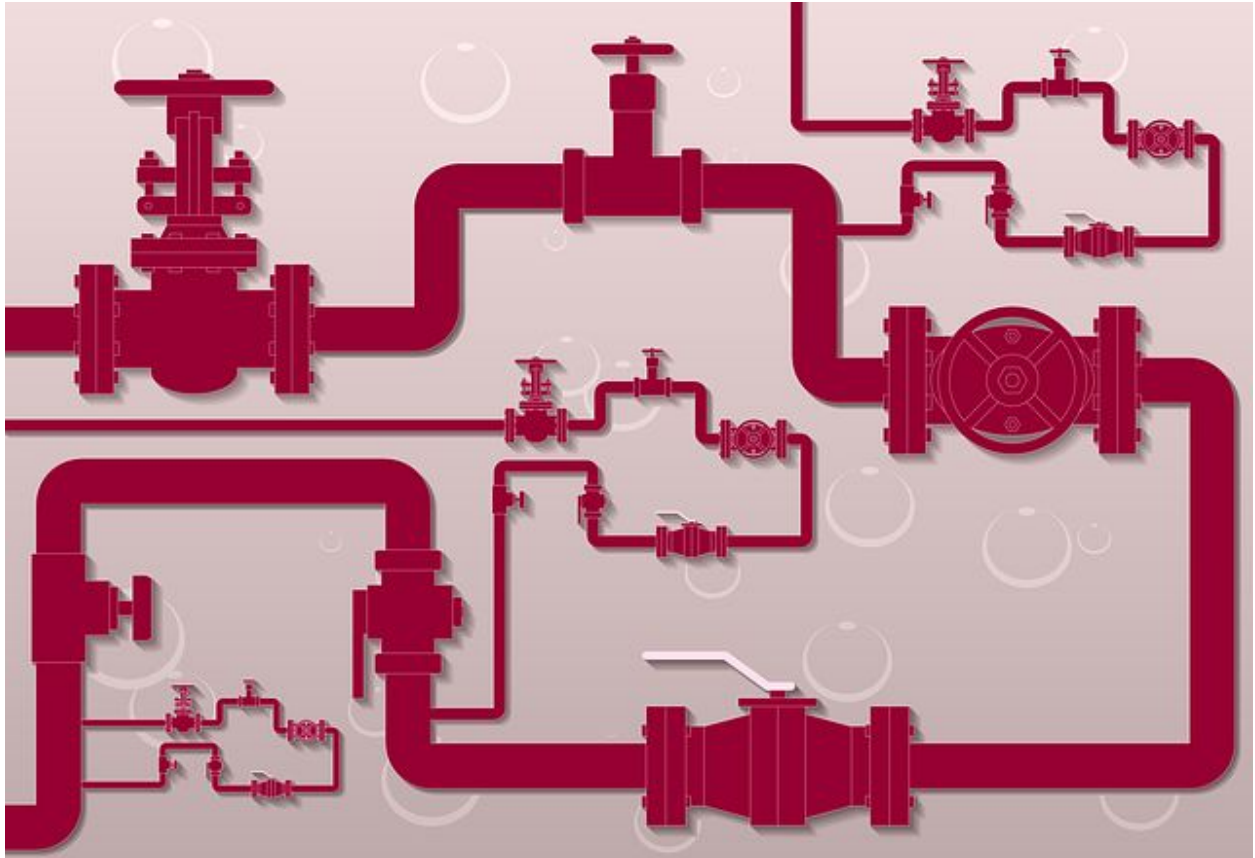


## When and How to Shut off Your Water



Like nails on a chalkboard, other sounds you don't want to hear include endless water dripping from a faucet or shower head, or a toilet that just keeps on running. We're spending a lot more time cooped up in our homes these days, and our home water systems are feeling the strain. It's no surprise then that fixtures, appliances, and the rest of your home plumbing may be experiencing problems. When this is the case, the best way to address the issue is shutting the water off at the source.

### Shutting Off the Water at the Fixture or Appliance

When you stop and think about it, it's pretty incredible to consider how much of your home's functionality depends on water. Unfortunately, we tend to only appreciate that when something's not working. The first step while waiting for your plumber is to shut off the local water supply. Not only will this prevent more leaking, but it allows other fixtures and appliances in your home to continue to work.

**Sinks** - When your sink faucet leaks, locate the two chrome-plated or plastic stop valves for hot and cold water. These are typically at the back of the cabinet and connected to the water supply tubes. Turn them clockwise until they're fully tightened.



Bathroom sink chrome-plated stop valves

**Dishwashers** - The dishwasher and sink shut off valves are often neighbors, located near each other in the under cabinet.

**Toilets** - A toilet has one stop valve because it only uses cold water. You can find the valve near the floor to the left of the toilet tank. Turn the valve handle clockwise to shut off the water.



Toilet stop valve

**Washing Machines** - Like your faucets, your washing machine has valves for hot and cold water. These can be located behind the washing machine or on an adjacent utility sink. Turn the valves clockwise to shut off the water supply. If your machine has a lever-style shutoff valve, pull the lever down.

### **Turning Off Water to Your Entire House**

You always have the option to shut off water to your entire house to be safe. The main reason you'd do this is if you were having a plumbing emergency, like a burst pipe. Depending on your home and property, you can turn off your water system at the main shutoff valve or at the water meter.

The main shutoff valve is large and usually located in a utility area close to the main water line at the water meter in the house. There is usually one valve before the meter and one valve after the meter. Shutting one off should be enough, but you may need to try the other one. If it's a wheel handle, turn it clockwise to shut it off. It may take as many as twenty turns until it stops. If

it's a newer valve with just a lever, do a one quarter turn until it's perpendicular to the pipe, and it will shut down.

Your water meter is often next to an outside wall of your house below ground level. Turn the valve handle clockwise until it stops. It may be inoperable because of age, and in that case, it's best to call a plumber to repair or replace the valves so you don't flood anything out.



Water meter reading

When you shut off the water in these ways, always open a faucet at the lowest level of the house to let standing water drain away.

### **We Are On It**

Shutting off the water is a good start, but it's only part of the battle. We are here to finish the job of repairing your plumbing problems for you. COVID-19 may be disrupting our daily lives, but we are an [essential business](#) ready to serve you. [Contact us](#), and we'll get back to you ASAP!

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