

Dealing with

WATER DAMAGE

TYPES OF WATER as determined by the IICRC's S-500 Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Water Damage Restoration.

CATEGORY

1



This is liquid from a clean and sanitary source, such as faucets, toilet tanks, drinking fountains, etc. Keep in mind that category one can quickly degrade into category two depending on time, temperature, and contact with contaminants.

CATEGORY

2



This category of liquid is described as having a level of contaminants that may cause illness or discomfort if ingested. Sources include dishwasher or washing machine overflows, flush from sink drains, and toilet overflow with some urine but not feces. Category two can quickly degrade into a category three depending on time, temperature and contact with contaminants.

CATEGORY

3



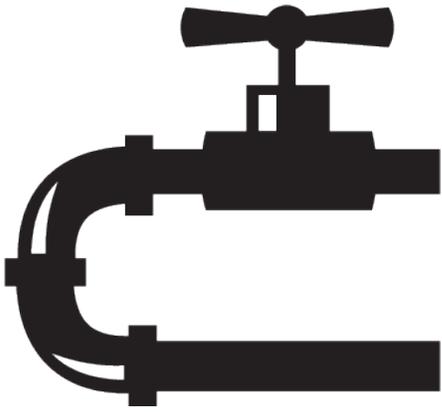
This is the worst classification and is grossly unsanitary. Formerly called black water, category 3 could cause severe illness or death if ingested. Sources of this type of water include sewer backup, flooding from rivers or streams and toilet overflow with feces.

NOT SURE . . . NEED HELP NOW?

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Water Leak Tips

Watch your water bill

for unexpectedly high usage. Higher usage could signal a problem.

Use no water for two hours. Read your water meter before and after this period. If the reading is not the same, you likely have a leak somewhere.

Install water leak alarms

and automatic water shutoff systems to catch leaks before damage occurs.

Fix leaks and drips

quickly, as soon as you see them.

These are often quick, easy fixes that don't cost much.

Leaky faucets can be fixed by checking faucet washers and gaskets.

Check your toilet

by placing a drop of food coloring in the tank. If colored water ends up in the toilet bowl in 15 minutes or less without flushing, there is probably a leak.

Flush the toilet immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.



Water Damage Prevention Tips

1

REPLACE

Replace hoses on appliances like washing machines, dishwashers and ice makers at any sign of wear. They're cheap, so replace them early, before the manufacturer's suggested timetable. Use the highest quality replacements.

2

PAY ATTENTION

Pay attention to your plumbing system - look for signs of wear, including noisy pipes, signs of moisture on walls or floor, or rust-stained water.

3

HAVE BACKUP

Make sure you have a reliable sump pump and backup sump pump protecting your basement.

4

TURN IT OFF

When supply leaks occur, turn off the water as quickly as possible! Teach your children how to turn the water off.



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