

HELP! WHERE IS MY WATER SHUT-OFF

VALVE?



Where is the water shut-off valve in my house? In the event of an emergency, shutting off the main water supply to your house will prevent water damage and the headaches of a flooded home. Whether a frozen pipe burst or you found a leak, use these tips from Rainbow International to find your water shut-off valve.

Utility room shut-off. Look for a ball valve or a gate valve that is on one pipe coming out of the wall or the ground in the utility room. Turn it slowly and be gentle! Many times these valves haven't been used in decades and rust and corrosion are holding them together.

WELL WATER SHUT-OFF VALVE

- **Most rural homes get their water from a well.** The shut-off valve will be located near your well's pressure tank. You may see two valves. Shut them both off in an emergency.
- **Instead of shutting off your water supply, you can temporarily turn off the well pump** to shut off your water supply. Do this by flipping the breaker in your fuse panel that powers your well pump. **No power, no water!**

MUNICIPAL WATER SHUT-OFF VALVE

- **Your city water shut-off valve will typically be located on the side of your home's foundation facing the street.** Look for a water pipe coming out of the foundation or ground that connects to your hot water heater. Gas and water lines can look similar, so be certain you're turning the correct valve.
- **To cut off the water supply before it reaches the house,** find a second shut-off valve near the street, in an underground concrete, plastic or metal box next to the curb. These can be hard to find, covered in dirt, or may require a special tool to turn off.

STILL CAN'T FIND THE WATER SHUT-OFF VALVE?

- **Follow the water supply pipes from your hot water heater or kitchen sink backwards until the pipe goes into a wall or ground.** No valve? It could mean the shut-off valve is in an underground utility box in your yard.
- In older homes, the shut-off valve could be located some place inconspicuous. **Look for removable wall panels, cabinets, floor or ceiling.** Even if you don't have appliances in the crawl space, the shut-off valve may be down there, requiring you to crawl on your belly with a flashlight to find it and shut it off.

Once you locate your water shut off valve, mark it with fluorescent tape. Choose Rainbow International for [water damage remediation services](#). Our experts are here to help.

