



PROPERTY PREVENTION ZONE

Helping you to stay in "Good Hands®"

An Institute for Business and Home Safety report on U.S. homeowners' insurance claims that resulted from failed plumbing drain systems revealed that:

- ☑ Drain system failures are one of the top five sources of residential water losses
- ☑ The average cost of a drain system failure was approximately \$4,400 per incident after the deductible was paid

Allstate is pleased to offer the following helpful information for preventing and minimizing damage from sewer backups:

- 1) Consider hiring a plumbing professional to install a backflow prevention assembly in the drain system if any of these conditions applies to your home:

- ✂ It was constructed prior to 1970
- ✂ Local storm-water system is tied into your home's sewer system (contact your local utility company for this information)
- ✂ Your home is located on the downside of a hilly street or lower than street level

Some municipalities offer partial or full reimbursements for installing these devices on at-risk homes.

- 2) Plant trees far away from lateral drain lines to prevent the piping from being attacked by aggressive tree root growth
- 3) Store personal belongings on raised shelving as far from basement floor drains as possible
- 4) Do not pour grease down the drain. It will solidify in the drain pipe and can cause a sewer backup. Instead, let the grease cool and dispose of it in the garbage.
- 5) Maintain your sewer system properly by avoiding flushing large objects (such as diapers) down the toilet
- 6) Re-route roof or surface drainage away from the sewer piping system
- 7) Consider installing a sump pump
- 8) Assure that surface water is directed away from the foundation of your home

As always, we welcome your input and suggestions around our prevention initiatives. If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact the [Prevention team](#).