



WHEN & HOW TO SHUT OFF UTILITIES IN AN EMERGENCY

WATER

A natural disaster may cause your water pipes to burst leading to more damage that could be prevented. Knowing where your water shutoff valve is in your home and **turning it off during emergencies will minimize future repairs.** Follow these steps to turn off your water:

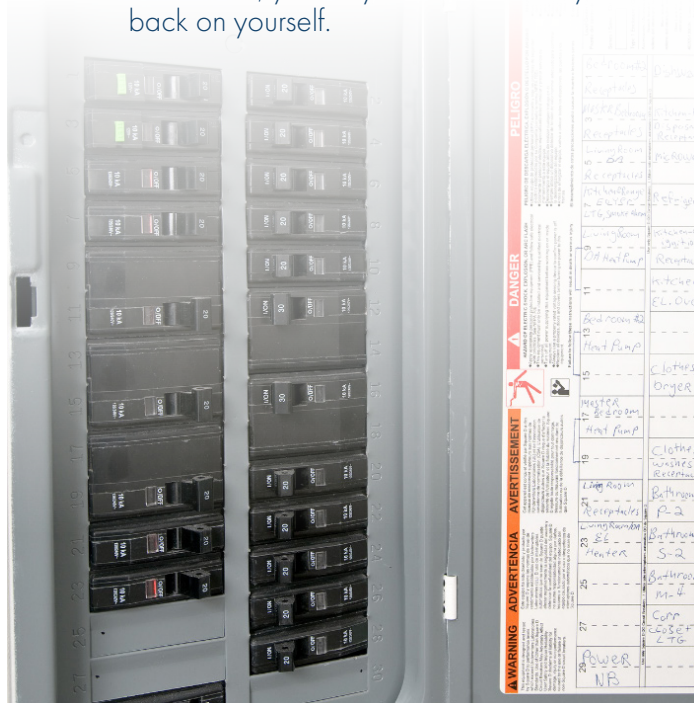
1. **Locate your main water shutoff valve.** It may be found in your garage, basement, or exterior walls around the house. If not, then it may be found in a buried access panel in the ground near your street
2. Once located, **turn the valve clockwise** until you can no longer turn it.
3. **Run water in your house** to check if the water has been turned off
4. **After the emergency** is over, you may **turn the water back** on yourself.



ELECTRICITY

Disasters such as **floods and severe storms may damage electrical devices and power outlets,** putting you in danger of electrocution. Follow these steps to turn off the electricity:

1. **Locate your circuit breaker.** It usually can be found in the basement, utility room, garage, or around the outside of your home in a large box.
2. Flip the main switch from ON to OFF, but **do NOT touch any exposed wires or bare metal inside the breaker panel.**
3. After the emergency has passed and the inside of your home is safe, **keep the power off until a trained technician has checked your appliances.** Afterwards, you may turn the electricity back on yourself.





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GAS

It is usually never advised to turn off your gas, even after an emergency. However, if you smell, hear, or suspect gas escaping, **ONLY turn off your gas if it's safe to do so.** Follow these steps if turning off your gas is necessary:

1. **Locate your main gas shutoff valve.** The gas meter and shutoff valve are usually found on the side or in front of your building. In some instances, they can be found in a cabinet enclosure inside the building.
2. Use a wrench or other suitable tool to **turn the lever until it is horizontal to the pipe.** Doing so should turn off the gas.
3. **Leave the gas off** once it has been turned off. **Do NOT attempt to turn it back on yourself.**
4. **After the disaster** has passed and it is safe, **call a gas technician** to have your natural gas service turned back on.

