

Monday: How to avoid water damage in the home.



We all fear our home being damaged by fire, but it's far more likely to be damaged by water, which makes just as much of a mess and can leave a place uninhabitable.

We analysed 12 months of claims data – 89,608 car, home and contents claims made between July 2019 to June 2020 – for The Mistake Report. It found that Mondays are the most common day for household water damage to happen; the most common mistake associated with water damage is leaving a tap running unattended.

No question as to why – Monday is the hectic start to the week, when we jump back into our routine after two precious days of rest. If you're going to rush out the door with mismatched socks, half a cup of coffee and a bathroom tap running, chances are it'll be on a Monday.

Not to worry, there are clever devices available to help you avoid this common problem – and its pricey aftermath.

A flood prevention plug fits into any standard bath, basin or kitchen sink plughole. As the water reaches a pre-set depth, a pressure plate in the plug is released and excess water drains away, preventing a flood.

This is an automatic process triggered by the pressure of the water bearing down on the plug. The water level is then maintained until the taps are turned off.

As the plugs are reasonably priced, it's easy to swap out all the standard plugs in your home as a security measure.

You might also want to consider placing an overflow alarm under your sinks and near your bath. These run on batteries and look similar to a smoke alarm. They operate like an electric circuit; when water touches the sensor, it completes the circuit and sets off an alarm. Most models will also send a warning email or text message to your phone. Easy!



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