Heavy Rains Bring Risk of Flooded Homes and Basements

*Helpful tips can save homeowners headaches and money*

**For Immediate Release**

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(Cincinnati, OH) --The onset of heavy rain can quickly flood homes and basements. Roto-Rooter, North America’s largest provider of plumbing and drain services, regularly comes to the rescue of frantic homeowners battling rising floodwaters. Heavy rain accumulates quickly and often doesn’t absorb into the ground. The runoff may cause heavy flooding that can damage homes and possessions.

According to leading insurance companies, the typical cost of repairing household water damage caused by flooding is about $5000 but costs may easily exceed tens of thousands. Although you cannot always predict when it will flood, you can better prepare your home by following these simple tips.

- Protect valuables by moving them from the floor to high shelves or upstairs areas.
- If your home has a sump pump, make sure it is operating properly by pouring a few buckets of water into the sump pit. The pump should quickly turn on, discharge the water, and then shut off. If it does not, contact a plumber for service. A sump pump is your home’s best defense against basement flooding.
- Disconnect basement appliances from power outlets if you think you may experience flooding. However, if the appliance is already submerged or the water level is above that of the outlet, don’t go into the basement and risk electrocution.
- Make sure yard drains, culverts, gutters and downspouts are cleaned out, open and clear of debris so that water is channeled away from your home’s foundation.
- Inspect foundation and basement walls for cracks. Watermarks near cracks could be signs of recent leaks and future risk. Use concrete patch to repair cracks or consult an expert.
- If your sump pump operates frequently, consider installing a battery back-up sump pump that will operate in the event of a power failure.
- Place battery-operated flood alarms in basements near the sump pump and in other flood-prone areas, including the laundry room and next to the water heater, etc. If water is present, the alarm will sound allowing you time to act sooner. Simple flood alarms cost less than $15.
- Test floor drains in garages, bathrooms, basements and patios by pouring a gallon of water into them. If they’re not draining quickly, use a drain snake to clear debris from the lines or call a plumber.

Roto-Rooter was established in 1935 and today is the largest provider of plumbing and drain cleaning services in the United States and Canada. Roto-Rooter operates businesses in 111 company-owned territories and approximately 500 independent franchise territories, serving 90 percent of the U.S. population and 41% of the Canadian population. For more information about Roto-Rooter please visit us at [www.rotorooter.com](http://www.rotorooter.com).

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