

Washing Machine Hose Failure

Washing machine hose failures are one of the top five sources of preventable water losses, according to research by the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS).

You probably haven't checked your washing machine hoses in a while – if ever. But since they could lead to thousands of dollars in damage to your home, or much more if they leak while you're away, you might want to spend a little time and a few dollars to make the right connection.

How can you reduce the chance your washing machine hoses will fail?

- * Inspect them regularly, looking for signs of leaks, bulging or cracking.

- * Make sure your washing machine is at least 4" from the wall, to prevent the hoses from bending and kinking. (Some hoses have pre-formed metal elbows to prevent kinking.)

- * When you replace them, choose a high quality hose. But remember, both rubber/nylon hoses and metal braided hoses can leak, so you must still be vigilant.

To further prevent problems, know how to locate your main water shutoff valve. Shut off your hoses when not in use. Consider installing an automatic washing machine shutoff valve and water hammer arrestors, which can absorb the increased water pressure that comes when the electric valve in your washing machine shuts off. And never leave your washer on when you're sleeping or heading out of the house.

For more information on preventing water losses in and around your home, read the IBHS publication *Is Your Home Protected From Water Damage?*



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