



It's May and that means spring has sprung and melting snow and rain showers have the potential to cause water damage issues in your home or business. Is there anything you can do to help prevent or minimize potential issues that could arise? Yes! This article will offer suggestions and tips for businesses and homeowners to use to protect their properties during this wet season.



Preventative Tips:

- 1. Routinely check your gutters and downspouts** to make sure they are free and clear of leaves and other debris, that all the sections are properly attached and free of any holes or damage that would divert the water to places it shouldn't go.
- 2. Check and test your sump pump** to make sure it is in proper working order and that the drainage hose is not next to the home and is free of holes or debris so the water is not discharged to close and flowing right back into the drainage system.

- 3. Check all window wells and landscaping** around the property to help prevent water from pooling or being directed back towards the home/business
- 4. If you have a back up power system** to keep your sump pump running if power goes out, it should be tested regularly to make sure it is fully charged in case you need it. There is nothing worse than believing you are protected only to find out the system has not been maintained.

How to Respond:

- 1. With standing water in the basement stay out!** If you must go down there while the water is still there, make sure the water isn't over the outlets, or you have the potential for electrocution!
- 2. The water is not going to be clean,** as it is full of bacteria and other microbes, Do NOT go down barefoot, if you have galoshes wear them and don't let the kids play like it's an indoor pool!
- 3. Take photos and contact your insurance agent** to start the claim process.