209 WATER DAMAGE
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HOMEOWNER EDUCATION SERIES | WD-001

7 Warning Signs of Hidden Water Damage in Your Home

Water damage can develop out of sight. Use this checklist to recognize possible warning signs and decide when to seek professional evaluation.

1. Persistent musty odors — A recurring musty smell in bathrooms, closets, or enclosed areas may suggest an ongoing moisture problem, even when water is not visible.

2. Unexplained stains or discoloration — Yellow, brown, or dark stains on ceilings, walls, and baseboards may point to previous or ongoing water intrusion.

3. Bubbling, peeling, or deteriorating paint — Blistering paint or separating drywall finishes can be associated with moisture affecting materials beneath the surface.

4. Soft, swollen, or warped flooring — Spongy floors, lifting planks, swollen baseboards, or unusual movement underfoot may indicate moisture affecting flooring or subflooring.

5. Loose or deteriorating bathroom tiles — Loose tiles, recurring grout deterioration, or movement around shower walls and floors may indicate problems within the underlying assembly.

6. Recurring moisture around plumbing fixtures — Persistent dampness near toilets, showers, tubs, sinks, or pipe penetrations may indicate leaks or failed water-management details.

7. Unexplained dampness or recurring moisture problems — Areas that repeatedly become damp or take unusually long to dry warrant investigation to identify the source.

What should you do if you notice these signs?

Document what you observe. Address active leaks safely, and avoid disturbing potentially damaged materials. If water is near electrical components or the structure appears unsafe, stay clear and seek qualified assistance. These signs alone do not confirm hidden damage; an assessment can help determine the source, extent, and appropriate repair or reconstruction scope.



Concerned about hidden water damage?
Request an assessment to discuss possible next steps.
Scan the QR code to request an assessment.
209WaterDamage.com