

The Weekend Fix-It Checklist

The 15 things every homeowner should be able to handle — before paying anyone.

Print this. Tape it inside a cabinet. Most "emergencies" on this list are a 10–20 minute job once you know where to look. Work top to bottom — the first section can save you from the expensive disasters.

Know before anything breaks

- Find your main water shut-off** — usually near the street-side wall or where the line enters. Tag it.
- Find your gas shut-off** — at the meter. Keep a wrench nearby.
- Find your electrical panel + label the breakers** — 20 minutes now saves you in the dark later.
- Locate every fixture shut-off** — under each sink and behind the toilet.

Plumbing — the \$150 calls you can skip

- Stop a dripping faucet** — swap the washer/cartridge. One trip to the hardware store.
- Clear a slow drain without chemicals** — a \$5 hair tool beats a \$200 visit.
- Fix a running toilet** — it's almost always the flapper. Cheap part.
- Re-seal around the tub/sink** — stop water getting behind tiles before it rots the wall.

Carpentry & around the house

- Hang a shelf that actually holds** — find the stud, use the right anchor.
- Fix a sticking or squeaky door** — tighten the hinge, shim if needed.
- Patch a small drywall hole** — invisible once you know the 3 steps.
- Re-caulk a window** — cuts drafts and your energy bill.

The seasonal 3 (do these and you prevent most repairs)

- Test smoke & CO detectors** — and swap batteries.
- Clear gutters & check the roofline** — water is the #1 enemy of a house.
- Change HVAC filters** — protects the most expensive system you own.

Want the step-by-step videos for every item above?

Weekend Home Fixer has all 3 courses — plumbing, carpentry & whole-home maintenance. Own it forever, no subscription.

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