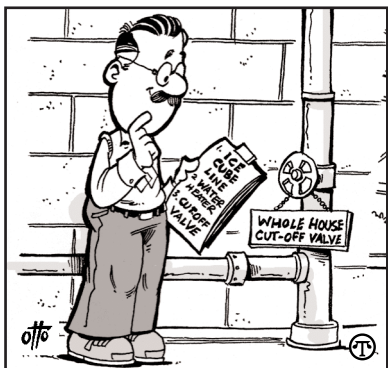


HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Preventing Water Damage

(NAPSA)—Household water damage can cause a flood of problems and high repair costs.

Fortunately, some of the most common problems are preventable, says the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS).



Costly water damage is all wet. It's wise to know where to find your home's shutoff valve.

According to IBHS, the top five sources of preventable losses are:

1. Toilet
2. Washing machine hose
3. Water heater
4. Ice maker supply line
5. Shower pan

The organization says: Routinely check for leaks around all water sources. Know the location of the shutoff valve for your toilet (and whole house) and don't overstuff the commode. Make sure your washing machine hose is properly connected and if it's brittle or corroded, replace it with a steel-reinforced hose and consider installing a water shutoff valve. Examine your hot water heater for corrosion. Check the connection to your ice maker's water line. Maintain the caulking in your tub and shower.

For more information and tips, visit www.ibhs.org or call toll free 1 (866) 657-4247.