

## Where is the Water Shut-Off Valve for My Home?

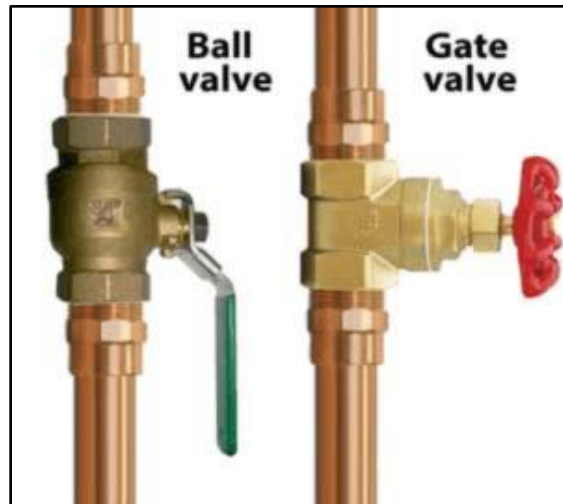
In case of a plumbing emergency, it is important that you know how and where to turn off the main water supply to your home. Broken water lines, damage from frozen pipes, or a leaking fixture can potentially cost you thousands in water damage and water bills. You should also be familiar with the isolation valves on your various plumbing fixtures that allow you to shut the water off to them individually.

Being able to contain a home water emergency as soon as possible will greatly help with minimizing water damage. Everyone in your home should know exactly where the main water shutoff valve is located and how to turn it off.

So....where is the main water supply shut-off valve located? That typically depends on your house and the type of foundation it has.

### 1. Homes built on a slab:

Your main water shut-off valve should be near your water heater tank. Most new homes have a ball valve type design, whereas older homes may have a gate valve design.



### 2. Homes with a basement:

If your home has a basement, look for the shut-off valve near the front foundation wall.

### 3. Homes with a Crawl Space plus a basement:

The shut-off valve is usually where the water supply enters the basement. If the shut-off valve is located in the crawl space, you might want to consider placing a second valve in the living space.

#### **4. Homes with a Crawl Space and no basement:**

The shut off valve is typically located near the water heater or under the kitchen sink (but could be elsewhere). As before, if the shut-off valve is located in the crawl space, you might want to consider placing a second valve in the living space.

If there is a fixture specific leak, you can also close the isolation shut-off valve that turns off the individual water supply to the fixture. Sinks, toilets, and clothes washers all have valves underneath or behind them that cut off the water to the fixture.

For most emergencies or repairs, shutting off the main indoor water supply valve or fixture isolation valves will take care of most situations. There are, however, also underground shut-off valves installed outside at the property line. If it is necessary to shut off this valve, please contact a licensed plumber or the Forsyth County Department of Water and Sewer.

Additionally, if you are going to be away from your home for an extended period of time, it is recommended that you turn off the main water valve to prevent a water emergency from occurring while you are gone.