

HOME TIPS: Washing Machine Hoses



Better



Best

One of the leading causes of interior water damage in our homes is from bursting washing machine hoses. Hoses rarely burst while you are standing there looking at them, they usually do it while you are away at work, or worse, while on a vacation, allowing high volumes of water to run for hours on end. This can obviously cause \$1000's in damages. Ideally, we should all turn off the valves which supply water to the washing machine, after each use, but this habit is rarely practiced. In fact, it is rare that we even check our valves and hoses for this appliance. Typically, we buy, or move in a washing machine, and hook up the hoses that the unit came with, and forget about it. Most washing machines come with rubber hoses that are not of high quality. Several times as an Inspector I have seen rubber hoses with severe bulges in them, or I have found them to be weeping.

As most of us do not check our hoses and valves regularly, we should at least do the next best thing. That is to install high quality water supply hoses. By installing a pair of high quality hoses, we can greatly reduce the risk of water damage in our homes. The "No-Burst" stainless steel braided hoses are readily available at most hardware and home centres, and are an improvement over the standard rubber hoses. The "Floodcheck" hoses get a far more favourable review, and actually provide a 20 year warranty. To my knowledge, the "Floodcheck" hoses are only available locally, at Basement Systems Calgary (PH: 403-720-0616 www.BasementSystemsCalgary.com). Remember, this is not a substitution for routine checking and maintenance practices.

When installing these hoses it is important to follow the instructions supplied, and be very careful not to kink, or cause a tight bend in these hoses. This is a task which requires reasonably low skill, but if you are not comfortable with this task, have someone with the required skills to do this for you.