BASIC PLUMBING RULES FOR EVERY HOMEOWNER

Plumbing is one of the basics for every home, and yet not every homeowner knows the basics of their own plumbing! Here are a few rules and tips to help you avoid common plumbing problems and keep your Pittsburgh area home running smoothly and efficiently.

KNOW WHAT TO (AND WHAT NOT TO) FLUSH

Clogs in plumbing pipes build up over time. Keep your toilet free of anything that isn't human waste or toilet paper (Just because the packaging says it's flushable, doesn't mean it is!)

KNOW YOUR PLUMBING TERMS

When things start to go awry with your plumbing, clear and accurate communication with a plumbing expert will give you a better shot at getting your plumbing issue resolved as quickly as possible. Familiarize yourself with terms like:

- P-trap
- Plumbing snake
- Auger
- Fitting
- Sediment
- Gasket
- Shutoff valve
- Gray/black water

MIND THE DRAIN

Similar to the toilet, it's important to keep your drain free from materials that can lead to clogs and cause damage. Common things to keep out of the drain include:

- Coffee grounds
- Grease and fat
- Eggshells
- Sticker residue
- Paint

THERE ARE NO SMALL LEAKS

Without fail, small leaks will turn into bigger leaks. Do not ignore any leak, no matter how minor it may seem!

LEARN HOW TO PROPERLY UNCLOG A TOILET

Is your toilet bowl filling up? Don't panic — grab a plunger and create an airtight seal between the plunger and the bowl before you begin plunging away. But your best friend when it comes to unclogging a toilet is restraint. If your plunger isn't doing the trick after a few tries, don't overdo it—call in a plumber!

DON'T OVER-TIGHTEN YOUR PIPES

If you're feeling confident enough to get into some DIY plumbing tips, overtightening your pipes can actually cause further damage to your plumbing. If the fitting is still leaking after a moderate amount of tightening pressure, there may be a bigger issue at hand.

Is your plumbing issue beyond the basics? Call the plumbing experts at Calfo and keep your plumbing in tip-top shape.