

Before the first Bay Area rain

10 ground-level checks to understand where water may travel

Walk only the safely accessible parts of the property. Check each box as you observe and photograph. This checklist is for documentation - not roof access, diagnosis or repair.

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01

Trace each downspout

Follow every visible downspout to its endpoint.

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06

Check accessible private drains

Note visible leaves, soil, objects or plant growth.

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02

Notice where water releases

Flag discharge beside walls, doors, steps or walkways.

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07

Clear loose items

Move lightweight objects away from obvious water paths when safe.

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03

Scan visible connections

From the ground, note loose, separated or damaged sections.

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08

Take before-rain photos

Document existing cracks, stains and damp-looking areas.

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04

Look for water clues

Record staining, erosion, displaced mulch or splash patterns.

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09

Observe the first rain safely

Watch overflow, pooling and runoff from indoors or cover.

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05

Identify low spots

Notice depressions near walls, doors, patios and paths.

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10

Record the next question

Note the time, location and concern for qualified follow-up.

AFTER THE FIRST RAIN

The water went _____.

My next qualified question is _____.

STOP AND SEEK APPROPRIATE HELP

Do not climb onto a roof or unfamiliar ladder, enter floodwater, approach damaged electrical equipment, open unfamiliar drainage components, work beneath unstable limbs or near unstable slopes, or handle sewage. Persistent pooling near the structure, active leaks, unstable soil or trees, electrical hazards, sewage and unsafe access need prompt, qualified attention. Renters should document concerns and contact property management.