

PREVENT FLEXI-HOSE FLOODS THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

By Positive Plumbing QLD

Flexi-hoses, also known as flexible braided hoses or flexible plumbing hoses, are common fittings in Australian homes. Made of a rubber hose reinforced with stainless steel webbing and fitted with clamped stainless steel fittings, they connect water to taps and fixtures, particularly in bathrooms and kitchens. Despite their prevalence, nearly half of Australians (47%) are unfamiliar with flexi-hoses, and 20% don't know where to locate them in their homes.

Positive Plumbing QLD is urging homeowners to understand what flexi-hoses are and take precautions during these school holidays to prevent potential disasters upon returning home.

Read on to find out how you can prevent your home from becoming a flexi-hose statistic.



UNDERSTANDING FLEXI-HOSE RISKS

According to Suncorp Insurance, flexi-hoses are responsible for nearly one in ten water damage insurance claims. These claims are more than double the cost of damage caused by a regular burst pipe. Many homeowners (over 80%) are unaware of how to reduce their risk of becoming victims of flexi-hose-related incidents.

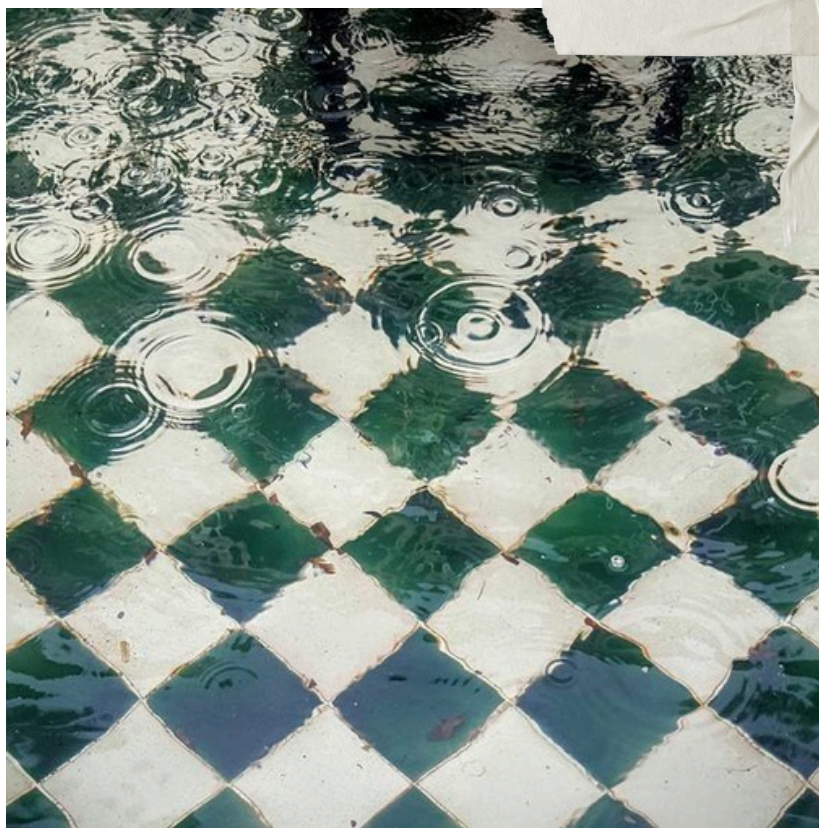
In 2022, flexi-hoses accounted for a significant portion of water damage claims in Australian households, highlighting their potential for costly damage if they fail. Linda McIntosh, co-founder of Positive Plumbing QLD (PPQ), emphasised that most flexi-hose failures are preventable with regular maintenance.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Licensed plumber (and the other half of PPQ), Scott McIntosh, recommends homeowners inspect their flexi-hoses every six months. Common issues leading to flexi-hose failure include rust, corrosion, twisting, kinking, or stretching. Regular checks can identify deteriorating hoses before they cause significant damage.

Despite recommendations to replace flexi-hoses every three to five years, many Australians (13%) believe they never need replacement unless they burst, and a further 35% are unsure about replacement intervals.

*To prevent this
from happening to
you, contact us
immediately if
you notice any
signs of
deterioration*



HOLIDAY PRECAUTIONS

With the school holidays well underway, PPQ advises homeowners to turn off the water mains before leaving for extended periods. Research shows that flexi-hose-related claims increase by 26% during holiday periods, underscoring the importance of precautionary measures.

INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS

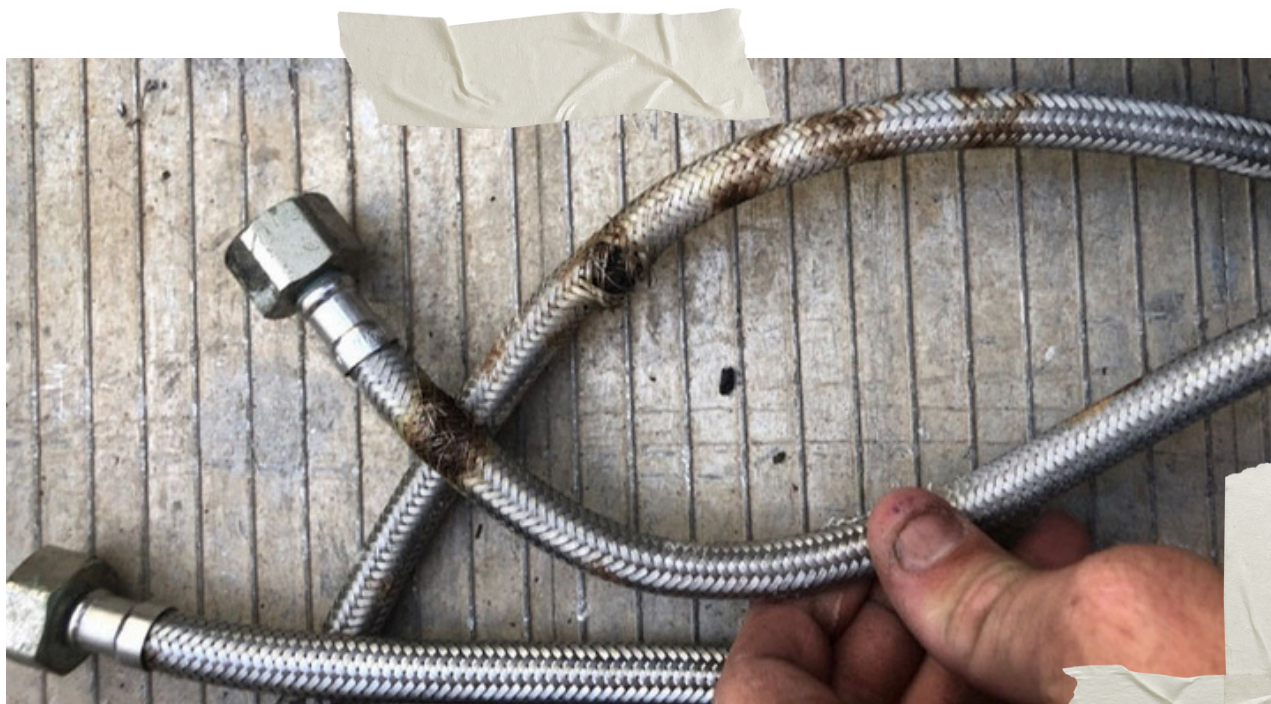
It's crucial for homeowners to understand that insurance typically does not cover damage caused by wear and tear. Half of Australians mistakenly believe their insurance will cover all repairs and replacements for damage from a burst flexi-hose, regardless of maintenance. Insurers generally require homeowners to maintain their plumbing properly to be eligible for coverage.

MAINTAINING FLEXI-HOSES

Regular maintenance is key to preventing flexi-hose failures. Homeowners should check for the below signs every six months:

- Leaks
- Bulging areas
- Twists
- Kinks; or
- Discolouration

Proper storage of household chemicals near flexi-hoses is also recommended to prevent damage.



Photograph portrays a flexi-hose with various spots of discolouration.

EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS

Scott advises using licensed plumbers (**cough* PPQ *cough**) for flexi-hose replacements and fitting individual stop cocks to each hose to minimise risks. Avoiding installations methods that cause twisting or kinking can extend the lifespan of flexi-hoses and reduce the likelihood of costly failures.

SIGNS OF DETERIORATION

Signs of flexi-hose deterioration include leaks at connections, bulging areas resembling black balloons, twists, kinks, sharp bends, or stretching, as well as discolouration such as black, brown, or reddish spots. Regular inspections can help homeowners identify these signs early and take appropriate action.



By maintaining awareness and taking proactive steps, homeowners can significantly reduce the risk of water damage from flexi-hose failures, ensuring peace of mind during vacations throughout the year.