

YOUR LEAK REPAIR CHECKLIST

Plumbing leaks waste water and cost you money. Finding and fixing leaks is easy and inexpensive.

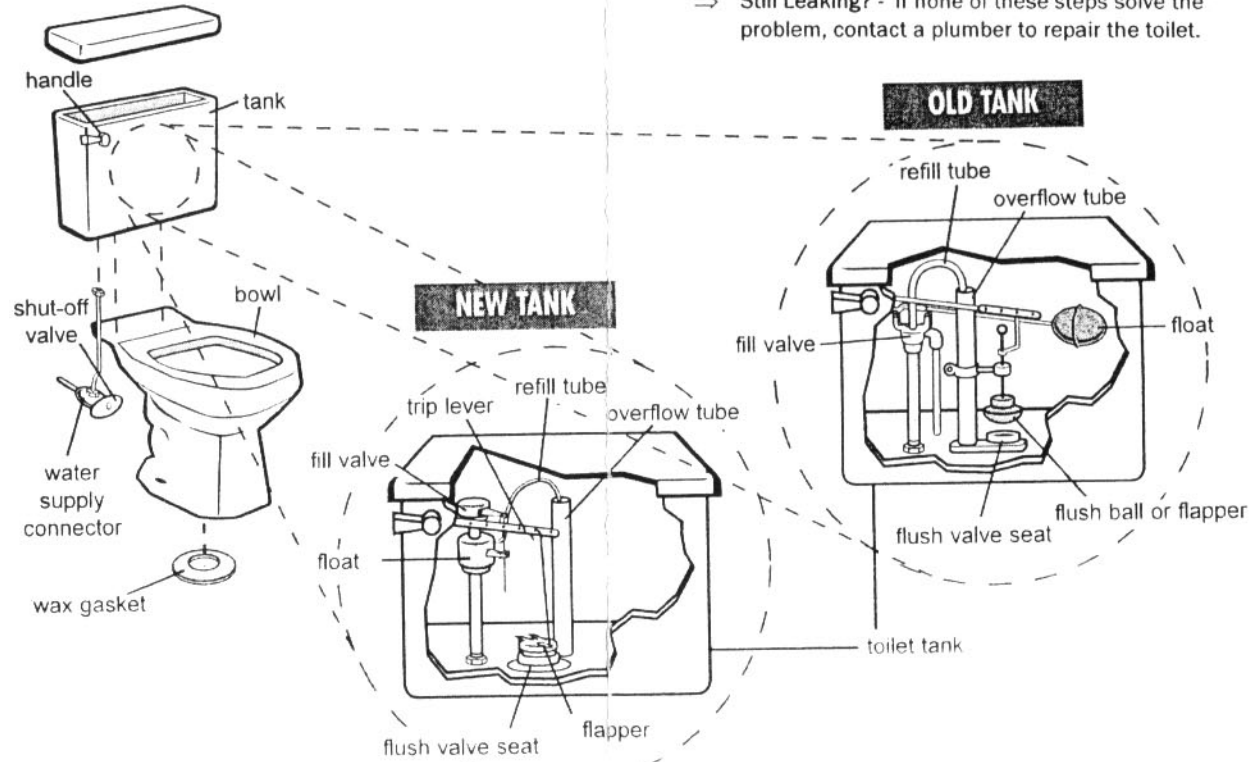
Start by fixing all visible leaks, both inside and outside your home or business. If you have a drip at a faucet or toilet, you usually can repair it yourself with a few simple tools in less than one hour.

- **Toilet Leaks** — Leaks inside your toilet can waste up to 200 gallons per day. Follow the steps in this pamphlet to fix common problems.
- **Faucet/Showerhead Leaks** — Faucet leaks are easy to spot. If a faucet is leaking hot water, it is also costing you money to heat the water. Remember to check all sinks and bathtubs.
- **Outdoor Leaks**
 - ✓ Check all hose bibs (outside faucets) for visible drips or wet spots on the ground. If the faucet is leaking follow the instructions for repairing compression faucets.
 - ✓ Check hoses and nozzles annually for leaks and repair or replace if necessary.
 - ✓ If you have an outside irrigation system, visually check it each month for broken heads and wet spots along lines and repair the leaks.
- **Invisible Leaks** — After you have repaired all visible leaks, check for invisible leaks.
 1. Make sure no water is in use inside or outside the house (don't forget automatic ice-makers).
 2. Find your water meter.
 3. Record the current meter reading. Wait 15 minutes. (Remember: no water should be used during this period.)
 4. Read the meter again. If the reading has changed, you have a leak. If you cannot find the leak using the tips in this brochure, you should consult a plumber.

Toilet Tune-ups

Most toilet leaks are easy to fix. Here are simple repair steps to follow:

- ⇒ **Water Level Adjustment** — If the water level is too high in the toilet tank, it will spill into the overflow tube, causing the water to run. The float can be adjusted by turning the adjustment screw clockwise. If you have a newer model with the float on the ballcock assembly, lower the wire link using the "v" shaped clip. The water should shut off one inch below the top of the overflow tube, or some toilets may have a fill line on the inside of the tank to use as a guide. It may take a couple of tries to get the water level where you want it.
- ⇒ **Handle Adjustment** — If you have to jiggle the handle to keep the toilet from "running," the guide-wire or the handle itself may be sticking. Adjust the nut that secures it in the toilet tank. If that does not work, you may need to replace the handle. Remember to take it with you when looking for a replacement.



- ⇒ **Dye Test**— Most people think that their toilet does not leak. To find out if yours does, use food coloring to test for silent toilet leaks. Put several drops of food coloring into the toilet. Wait 15 minutes and DO NOT FLUSH! If colored water appears in the bowl, you have a silent leak and will most likely need to replace the flapper or reduce the water level in the tank.
- ⇒ **Flapper Replacement** — If the flapper ball is worn, it should be removed and replaced. When removing or replacing the flapper, note how the chain is adjusted before the old flapper is removed. You also should check the valve seat for scale or corrosion. If the surface of the valve seat is rough, get some 400-grit wet or dry sandpaper and lightly go over the entire surface. Repeat the process until the surface is smooth. If cleaning does not work, you can purchase a combination flapper/valve seat that is made to fit over the existing valve seat. Make sure to take the existing parts with you when purchasing replacements.
- ⇒ **Still Leaking?** - If none of these steps solve the problem, contact a plumber to repair the toilet.