

How to Check For a Water Leak

Step 1. Turn off all water-using appliances so that no water is being used. This means turning off all water inside and outside the house including showers, sinks, washing machines, and any appliance that uses water. If you have an irrigation system, make sure you are currently not watering, but leave the system charged.

Step 2. Locate your meter box to access your meter. Refer to “How to Read Your Water Meter” pamphlet.



Step 3. Take the lid off the meter box and lift the protective cover. See “How to Read Your Water Meter” pamphlet for directions. **Watch the meter.** Your meter will have a red star wheel that is commonly called a “leak indicator.” If it is spinning, even very slowly, you have a leak. If it is not spinning, look at the red pointer and note the number it is pointing at.

Once again, make certain that all water is off and return in 10-20 minutes to see if the red pointer has moved. If it has moved you have a slow leak — go to step 4. If not, you do not have a leak.

Step 4. If you have an irrigation system, shut it off at the backflow prevention assembly. If the meter stops spinning, the leak is in the irrigation system.

Step 5. If the meter keeps spinning, locate your main shut off valve at the house (often referred to as a stop and drain valve), which is usually located under the house. Close this valve and open the nearest, lowest fixture to make sure the water is fully shut off.

Step 6. Return to your meter and observe if the red star wheel has stopped moving. Look again at the red pointer and note the number it is pointing at. Return in 10-20 minutes to see if the red pointer has moved. If the star wheel is moving, or the red pointer has moved in the 10-20



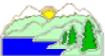
minutes, you most likely have a leak on your water line between the meter box and the house. Please contact a local plumber to have this investigated and repaired.



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Our website also has updates and additional information:
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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.

