

HOW TO CHECK FOR LEAKS

Use your water meter to check for leaks:

- Make sure no water is being used inside or outside of your house.
- Locate your water meter and check the leak indicator to see if it is moving. Depending on the brand of your meter, the leak indicator could be a small triangular shaped dial or a small silver wheel that rotates when water is flowing through the meter. If the dial is moving, chances are, you have a leak.
- Or, you can also take a meter reading and wait 1 or 2 hours and take another meter reading (make sure no water is used during this time). If the reading has changed, you have a leak.

Determine if the leak is inside or outside of your house:

- Locate your home's main shut off valve and shut off the water at the valve. Typically, in the basement or garage directly behind an outdoor faucet, or outside below an outdoor faucet.
- Check the leak indicator for movement or use the meter reading method. If the leak indicator stops moving or there is no change in the meter readings, then you have a leak inside of the house. If the leak indicator continues to move or there is a change in the meter readings, then the leak is outside between the meter and the house.
If you are unable to locate the leak, you may need to call a plumber.

Underground Leak Detection

- Look (and feel) for portions of your property that are always wet.
- Look at your driveway, curb or street for evidence of water flow.
- The evidence may not be a steady stream of water; it may only be a puddle that never dries up, or a darker spot (as in what happens when water is spilt on dry concrete)

Leaking Toilets

Toilet leaks can waste hundreds of gallons and often times are silent. Even a small leak can add up to a lot of wasted water and money over time. Fortunately, most toilet leaks are easy and inexpensive to repair.

Determine if you have a leak by simply removing the tank lid, place a few drops of food coloring in back of the toilet tank. Wait about 30 minutes, without flushing, and then look in the toilet bowl to see if any color has come through, if you see color that is an indication of a toilet leak.

If you have a leak check the following:

- Flapper Valve-The flapper is the rubber valve in the bottom of the tank that lifts up when the toilet is flushed. If the flapper is worn or cracked, it allows water to continuously flow from the tank into the toilet bowl without flushing
- Flush Handle-if the handle needs to be jiggled to keep the toilet from running, the flush level bar and chain (or the handle itself) may be sticking.
- Overflow Tube Leaks- If the water is too high in the toilet tank and is spilling into the overflow tube, the water level can be adjusted by turning the adjustment screw or by very gently bending the float arm down so that the water shuts off at a level below the overflow tube.

Leaking Faucets

- Generally a result of a worn rubber washer or O rings. Repairing faucet leaks are easy, just turn off the water supply line to that faucet, replace the washer and turn the line back on.