

How to Detect Leaks

A small leak, about the size of the head of a pin, dripping at one drop per second can add up to 7 gallons of water per day. A large leak, the kind most often found in toilets, can waste 200 gallons of water or more per day! Check out the following when you suspect a leak:

Faucets

Check faucets in the bathroom and kitchen periodically. Most often, worn washers are the cause of dripping faucets.

Sprinkler Systems

Broken sprinkler heads or damaged underground pipes are common sources of sprinkler system leaks. Watch your system run at least once per month to spot problems early. Usually, leaks are easy to fix. Do-it-yourself books with easy to follow instructions are available at libraries and stores.

Toilets

Check toilets for leaks often. The most common causes of a leaking toilet are 1) float device set too high, which causes water to run into the overflow tube and 2) a warped or cracked flapper.

Toilet leak kits are available. The kit contains tablets that are dropped into the toilet tank. After the tablets are placed in the tank wait 15 minutes, then check the toilet bowl. (Remember, don't flush during this time.) If the water in the bowl changes color, you have a leak!

Don't forget to use your water meter to detect leaks

Use your water meter to determine if you have a leak.

- Make sure no water is being used inside or outside (no clothes washer filling, no shower running, no water outdoors, etc.).
- Locate your water meter box, carefully remove the cover and lift the top of the meter.
- Find the leak detector (the small triangle on the meter dial). If all of your water sources are off and the leak detector is rotating, you may have a leak. Leaks can waste thousands of gallons of water in just a few days. It pays to fix leaks promptly.

