

WATER LEAKS

This guide will help you identify and locate water leaks in your home or business. Repairing water leaks is a great way to reduce the use of water that's just being wasted. Even slow leaks can add up quickly. Fix leaks as soon as you find them. They won't go away on their own.

Sometimes you may have a leak and not even know it. The best indication will be a high bill compared to past use. The first step is to determine whether you have a leak or are just using more water than you expected. Many customers are surprised how much water can be used for activities such as watering the lawn. Below are directions for checking if you have a water leak.

HOW TO CHECK YOUR METER

1. Locate your water meter. It should be in the basement near the front of your home where the water service line comes in. Open the round black lid on the top of the meter (if you do not have a newer digital meter, there won't be a lid.)
2. 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 dishwashers. If you have an irrigation system, make sure you are not currently watering.
3. Write down the meter reading on the digital display of your meter (or on the dial wheel if you have an old-style meter). If you have a digital display, you will need to shine a light on the face of the meter to activate it. Wait 30 minutes, being sure not to use any water during this time. After 30 minutes, check the meter read again. If the reading has changed, you have a leak.
4. If you have an old-style meter, it may have a red triangle on the face. If you see that the triangle is spinning while you are not using water, that indicates you have a leak.

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DIGITAL

ACTIVATING AND READING THE DIGITAL DISPLAY (LCD)

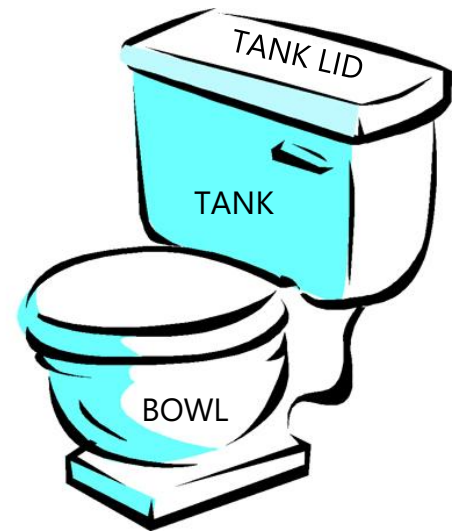
The digital meter needs light for activation so you may need to shine a flashlight on it (if you have a smartphone, the flashlight on your phone will work). The display alternates between the meter read and the flow rate.

TOILETS

Toilet leaks can range from small to large, constant or random. Many are even silent. In a properly functioning toilet, no water should move from the tank to the bowl unless the toilet is being flushed. A leaking toilet loses water from the tank to the bowl without being flushed.

Checking for a toilet leak:

1. Remove the tank lid.
2. Add some food coloring or a dye tablet into the tank to turn the water a different color. Put the tank lid back on. Do not flush the toilet.
3. Wait 10 to 30 minutes, then look in the toilet bowl. If you see colored water, you have a leak.



If you do have a leak, there are a number of possible causes. If you remove the tank lid and can easily identify the cause, correct the problem and try your leak test again.

FAUCETS AND PIPES

Water-using devices can leak and cause damage to walls and floors, potentially creating an environment for mold or mildew. Look for continuous leaks in supply lines, fittings and valves. Also, look for leaks caused by corrosion, such as a rusty water heater bottom. Leaks may be intermittent, meaning they only occur when a water-using device is in operation. Run water-using devices, such as a clothes washer or dishwasher, to see if a leak occurs while running. If you find a leak and don't feel comfortable doing the repair yourself, a plumber may be your best option. Remember, even if you have to pay a plumber to fix the leak, you will end up saving money in the long run.

Look and listen for running or dripping water on:

- Refrigerators with ice/water dispensers
- Humidifiers
- Water softeners
- Clothes washers
- Icemakers
- Reverse osmosis (RO) systems
- Dishwashers
- Water heaters
- Any other water-using device