

Tips on possible Water Leaks

Leaks not only waste water ... They cost you money

Checking for Water Leaks - First Sign

One of the first indications of a water leak is an unexplained increase in the usage amount and dollar amount on your monthly water bill. If there is an increase in usage that cannot be explained by extra people in the house, lawn watering, faucet left on, etc., there is a possibility that a toilet is leaking, a faucet is dripping, or there is a break in the water line between the meter and the house. Other sources of leaks can be the sprinkler system, the water softener, or the automatic fill on the swimming pool.

First Check Toilets

If a leak is detected; we recommend that you check your toilets first. Our experience shows that most leaks occur in the toilet. A leaking toilet tank can waste hundreds of gallons of water per day!

Toilets

- Listen and look for running water
- Put a few drops of food coloring into the tank. If color shows up in the bowl within ten minutes, the valve or support assembly may need to be replaced.
- See if the ball valve drops squarely into the drain opening. If not, clean it out or replace the ball valve if it is worn.
- Check the flush handle to see if it is stuck in the flush position.
- Carefully bend the float arm to lower the water level to at least one-half inch below the top of the overflow tube.
- Replace the overflow tube if it has holes below the water line.

Faucets, Bathtubs and Showers

- Replace worn gaskets and washers.
- Replace washer less faucets.
- Tighten water line connections and valves.

Humidifier

- Check for water drips.

Water Heater

- Replace the pressure and temperature valve, if leaking.
- Tighten the drain valve.

Dishwasher/Clothes Washer

- Look for water drips or stains underneath or in back of the machine.
- Look for leaks in hoses.

Water Service Connection

- Look for drips or wet areas in the basement or crawl space.
- Place a screwdriver on the service line and listen. No noise means water is not running.

Outside Faucets

- Replace worn gaskets and washers.

Sprinkler System

- Disconnect hoses from outside faucets to protect against freeze damage.
- Winterize your sprinkler system according to the system's instructions.
- Check for any damage to sprinkler heads.
- Check for automatic timer systems
- Make sure that all drain plugs are closed.

If you don't have a leak

If you don't have a water leak and your bill seems high, did you use more water outside?

- Did you go on vacation and leave someone else in charge of your lawn watering?
- Do you have an automatic sprinkler system with a broken head?
- Have you put in a new lawn or sprinkler system recently?
- Do you rent your unit?
- Did you use more water inside?
- Were your children playing with the water?
- Did you do extra loads of laundry before or after a vacation?
- Did you have friends or relatives staying with you?

Water costs money ... don't waste it!

A dripping faucet or fixture can waste 3 gallons a day ... a total of 1095 gallons a year.

	U.S. Equivalent	Metric Equivalent
Fluid oz.	8 fl. drams (1.804 cu. inches)	29.573 milliliters
Pint	16 fl. oz. (28.875 cu. inches)	0.473 liter
Quart	2 pints (57.75 cu. inches)	0.946 liter
Gallon	4 quarts (231 cu. inches)	3.785 liters

Waste per quarter at 60 psi water pressure

Diameter of Stream	Gallons	Cubic Feet	Cubic Meters
 1/4"	1,181,500	158,000	4,475
 3/16"	666,000	89,031	2,521
 1/8"	296,000	39,400	1,115
 1/16"	74,000	9,850	280

A continuous leak from a hole this size would, over a three month period, waste