

## How To Check For a Water Leak

Finding water leaks can save you money in water and sewer bills. These basic steps can be done by the customer before calling in a professional.

1. Turn off all fixtures so that no water is being used. This includes inside and outside appliances and faucets.
2. Check the water meter for water flow activity. There is typically a red needle and a red triangular arrow that turn when water is flowing through the meter. If either of these are moving then you have a leak somewhere in the house beyond the meter.
3. If the needle and flow arrow are not moving, make a light mark on each and recheck the meter in an hour. If neither has moved then it is unlikely there is a leak. However, if either one has moved then a leak can be suspected.
4. If a leak is suspected, check all faucets, hoses and fixtures for any obvious leaks.
5. Toilets are the leading cause of leaks and high bills in homes. Customers can check for toilet leaks by dropping a few drops of food coloring into the tank. If the food coloring shows up in the bowl after 15-30 minutes, the toilet is leaking. A flapper valve repair kit can be purchased from a local hardware store.
6. Sometimes the toilet can be heard filling when no-one is around. These "ghost flushes" are a good sign of a faulty flapper valve that might not

show up during a meter inspection. Often the only way to determine if you are experiencing "ghost flushes" is to mark the needle and arrow on the meter, after the last person uses water at night, and recheck the meter before anyone uses water in the morning. If the needle or arrow have moved, and no one has used water then a leaking toilet might be the problem.



## Water Leak Table

A small hole or leak in your water line or fixture can result in excessive leakage and high bills. The table below shows some common flow rates ( in gallons) at a line pressure of 60 PSI.

<b>Hole Size</b>	<b>Loss Per Day</b>	<b>Loss Per Quarter</b>
1/64"	49.5 gal.	4,450 gal.
1/16"	792 gal.	71,280 gal.
1/8"	3,168 gal.	285,120 gal.
1/4"	12,720 gal.	1,144,800 gal.

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