



Dripping faucets and running toilets are more than a nuisance; **they waste water and they cost you money.**

Other water leaks are less noticeable, but if your water bill sky-rockets for no apparent reason, chances are you have a leak. Finding and fixing household leaks is typically an easy and inexpensive do-it-yourself project.

### HOW TO DETECT A LEAK:

- 1. Check your water meter.** Turn off all water inside and outside. Locate your water meter and jot down the figures. Wait 15 to 20 minutes and read it again. Have the numbers changed? If so, there's a leak somewhere.
- 2. Monitor your water bill.** Pay close attention to your water consumption. Big increases in your water consumption could point to a silent leak, especially in the winter months when outdoor watering needs are low.
- 3. Use a leak detection dye tablet** to check your toilet for leaks and you'll know for sure. (Detailed instructions inside.)

**Need help? Contact your water utility.**

### FIXING ANNOYING DRIPS:

If your leak is a drip you can see coming from a shower, sink or faucet, check for worn washers.

### HOW TO REPLACE A WORN WASHER:

- 1. Shut off the water** at the nearest or main shutoff valve.
- 2. Relieve pressure** by running the faucet until dry, then loosen the cap nut and remove the faucet handle and assembly.
- 3. Unscrew the brass setscrew** to remove the old washer.
- 4. Wipe the area clean, then install the new washer.**
- 5. Replace the setscrew and faucet assembly.** Turn the faucet handle as far as possible to close it, then loosen it slightly.
- 6. Replace the cap nut and turn off the faucet** before turning the water back on at the shutoff valve.



# FIND & FIX WATER LEAKS

## TO SAVE WATER AND MONEY

Average household leaks add up to almost **10,000 gallons of water** wasted per year. That's enough to wash **300 loads of laundry.**

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# FINDING & FIXING HOUSEHOLD LEAKS

## FINDING SILENT LEAKS:

Many leaks will show themselves in the form of those annoying drip-drip-drips, but others may be silent. To look for a silent leak, start with your toilets.

## HOW TO USE A LEAK DETECTION DYE TABLET:

1. **Place the dye tab** (or a few drops of food coloring) in the toilet tank.
2. **Wait 15 minutes without flushing.** If colored water appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leak.
3. **Flush twice** to clear colored water from tank and bowl.
4. **If you've found a leak, check the tank assembly** to determine if everything is working properly.

If you see a leak and it's an easy repair you're comfortable doing, take care of it!

Homeowner's Responsibility

Water Utility's Responsibility

## Where can you find your main water shutoff valve?

It's typically near where the water service line enters your home, usually on or near an exterior wall in a utility area such as a basement or garage. Check near your water heater or furnace.

