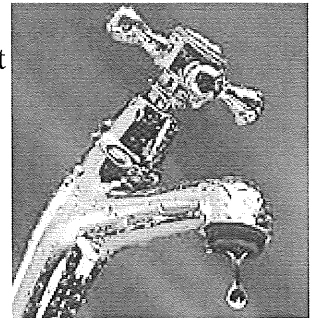


# Leak Detection

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A single drip can add up to 365 gallons of water per year is left unprepared. Check out our [leak chart \(below\)](#) to see the impact that different size leaks can have on your water bill. Finding a leak is the first step in wise water management and can help conserve water and save you money. Repairing leaks helps you reduce your monthly water bill and helps us maximize our available water thereby postponing improvements needed to serve our growing community.



## Finding a leak

You know you have a leak when your faucet drips, but do you know how to find a hidden leak? If you suspect you have a phantom water waster on your property, follow these tips to find the culprit.

**First, make sure no water is being used inside or outside of your home.**

### Locate your water meter

About 90 percent of all area residential water meters are located in the front yard near the street. The first step is to check your water meter for movement. Look at the top or center of the meter. You'll notice a triangle or small circular dial about the size of a button called a *low flow indicator*. It'll move whenever water is passing through it. If your meter doesn't have a flow indicator, you can use the sweep hand on the register to indicate water loss. If either the flow indicator or the sweep hand is moving, you may have a leak or malfunction.

### Check your toilets

Locating a leak is a process of elimination and your toilet is the first place you should start. Shut off one toilet at a time at the wall. In between each shutoff, go out to the water meter and check your flow indicator. If the small, red flow-indicator triangle is moving, that toilet is not the problem. Something else is causing a leak. If the small triangle stopped moving, that means it is the culprit. Leaky toilets are usually inexpensive and easy to fix.

### Check your sprinkler system

Shut off the anti-siphon valve that serves your sprinkler system. Check the low flow-indicator at the water meter. If the flow indicator stopped moving, the sprinkler system is the problem.

### Check your water softener

Most softeners have a bypass lever. Turn the lever to allow water to bypass the softener. Check the red flow-indicator triangle at the meter. If the triangle is no longer moving, you have isolated the leak to your softener. (You also can check for leaking swamp coolers, water-cooled air conditioners, ice machines and reverse osmosis units by turning the bypass lever on each and checking the meter.)

### **Check your main service line**

First, you need to find your water shutoff valve. This is in your meter box and usually on the side nearest the street. If you are not sure you can clean off the inlet and the outlet of the meter and find an arrow indicating the direction of flow. Shut off the valve, cutting off all water to your home, and go in the house and turn on a faucet to make sure the water is off. Check the low flow-indicator at the meter. If the low flow indicator is moving, the leak is between the shutoff valve and the water meter.

### **Now what?**



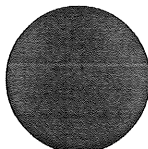
First, close the water meter cap to prevent damage to the lens and replace the meter box lid. If you are not able to find the leak, you should call a professional plumber to locate and fix the leak(s). If you find a simple leak like your toilet flapper or kitchen faucet, you may want to fix the problem yourself.

### **Meter Tampering**

It is unlawful to tamper with or in any way alter the operation of a water meter. State law provides strict penalties for such infractions.

# Unrepaired Leaks Can Be Costly

## Water Loss in Gallons at 50 psi

Leak this Size	Loss per Day	Loss per Month	Loss per Year
	120	3,600	43,200
	360	10,800	129,600
	693	20,790	249,480
	1,200	36,000	432,000
	1,920	57,600	691,200
	3,096	92,880	1,114,560
	4,296	128,880	1,546,560
	6,640	199,200	2,390,400
	6,984	209,520	2,514,240

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