

HOW TO FIND & REPAIR LEAKS

In just one year a leaky toilet wastes over 22,000 gallons of water. A leak in a sink of just one drop per second wastes an additional 2,400 gallons per year.

Toilet Leaks

Some toilet leaks make a running sound. Others are silent. To detect a silent leak, put some drops of food coloring into your toilet tank. Wait twenty minutes. If there is coloring in the bowl, you have a leak. Many toilet leaks can be fixed with simple tools and a do-it-yourself manual.

Pipe Leaks

Leaky pipes in your basement, under your sink, and behind your washing machine or dishwasher can waste great amounts of water. They can also damage your home. To detect these unseen leaks, check your water meter. Then don't run any water for an hour, and check the meter again. If the meter has moved, you may have a leak.

Faucet Leaks

Leaky faucets waste 100s of gallons of water monthly. But many can be fixed with an inexpensive washer. A good household do-it-yourself book offers simple advice. Here are basics for valve-stem-and-washer-type faucet:

1. Shut off water supply to faucet
2. Remove parts. Lay them down in the order in which they are taken out to simplify reassembly.
3. Replace worn washer with same size and type.
4. Re-assemble unit.
5. Turn on water supply. Check with plumbing supply store for simple repair of other faucet types.

WATER SAVING TIP

AMOUNT SAVED

Washing Machine	Wait until you have a full load to wash	About 30 gallons of water for each small load not washed.
New Washing Machine	Purchase one with water saving features load size selector, and variable water level control.	As much as 30 gallons per load.
	Choose a front loading washer: these use 1/3 less water (and 2/3 less soap) than top loaders.	About 10-20 gallons per load.
Water Pipes	Insulate hot water pipes in older homes so you Don't run water waiting for it to get hot.	8 gallons per person per day
Cooler	If you have an evaporative cooler, install a recirculating water pump on it to reduce water use.	20 gallons or more per hour.
LAWN & GARDEN		
Watering	Unless water is rationed, deep soak garden once weekly rather than sprinkle lightly several times a week.	Over 50 gallons a week in summer.
	Water at night or morning to prevent rapid evaporation during heat of day.	35 gallons per 1/2 acre per watering not needed
Garden Hose	Use a nozzle which can be shut off or adjusted to a fine spray.	5 gallons per minute

WATER SAVING TIP

AMOUNT SAVED

Backyard Clean Ups	Use a broom or rake rather than a hose to remove leaves and debris from driveway, walk, patio, and pool decks.	40 gallons per 5 minutes of work
Swimming Pool	Cover swimming pool to slow down the evaporation of water from it.	If average-sized, equivalent of it's volume each year.
Washing Car	Wash with bucket and sponge rather than with hose (and reuse water for chrome, hub caps and wheels).	85 gallons or more per wash

IN THE BATHROOM

Shower	Take a five-minute shower instead of a bath	About 15 gallons per shower
	Install a low-flow shower head to reduce water use by 50% or more.	About 3 gallons per minute per shower
Bathing	Bathe in a tub less than half-filled with water.	10-15 gallons per bath
New Toilets	New ultra-low flush models use 1.6 gallons of Water per flush rather than 6 gallons.	Almost 4 gallons per flush
Older Toilets	Put a water-filled plastic jug in toilet tank, away from working parts.	2 gallons per flush
All Toilets	Flush half as often as before	At least 12 gallons per day per person
	Don't use toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray. Flush only when essential.	At least 12 gallons per day per person

WATER SAVING TIP

AMOUNT SAVED

Sink	Use a glassful of water instead of running tap.	10 more gallons per brushing.
	Instead of running water, partially fill basin and use stopper.	3 gallons per shave

IN THE KITCHEN

Dishwashing by Hand	Handwash in a filled basin, not with water running.	25 gallons per load
Automatic Dishwasher	Wait until you have a full load and only run once a day. Short cycle uses 7 gallons.	10-12 gallons per each cycle not run
	Run load on short cycle cycle (7-8 gallons) rather than standard cycle (10-12)	3-4 gallons per load
Faucet	As in the bathroom, install a low-flow faucet.	2.5 gallons per minute
Drinking Water	Keep a pitcher of cold water in the refrigerator instead of running it at the tap until it cools.	About 2 gallons per drink
Cleaning Foods	Use a brush and a bowl full of water instead of running water over fruits and vegetables.	2-10 gallons per meal
Thawing Food	Thaw frozen food in refrigerator, not under running water.	5 gallons or more per meal