



LEAKS

AMOUNTS OF WATER LOST DUE TO LEAKS

LEAK SIZE	GALLONS PER DAY	GALLONS PER MONTH
Dripping leak	15 gallons	450 gallons
1/32 inch leak	264 gallons	7,920 gallons
1/16 inch leak	943 gallons	28,300 gallons
1/8 inch leak	3,806 gallons	456,800 gallons
½ inch leak	60,900 gallons	1,827,000 gallons

POTENTIAL CAUSES OF LEAKS

TOILET

The most common cause for a high water bill is running water from your toilet. A continuously running toilet can waste up to 200 gallons a day. That can double a household's normal water use. So fix a toilet leak as soon as possible. You can usually hear a running toilet, but not always. Use the toilet assessment below for help in determining if a leaky toilet is the cause of your high water bill.

Do-It-Yourself Toilet Assessment

First check for the most common toilet leak: a deteriorated or defected flush valve (flapper) ball at the bottom of the toilet tank.

If it does not make a tight seal, water will leak/flow into the toilet bowl. To check for this:

- Take the lid off the tank behind the bowl; flush the toilet; wait for it to fully refill
- Put a few drops of dye or a colored dye tablet (available at some hardware/home improvement stores) in the tank

- Wait at least 20 minutes; longer if you suspect it is a small tank
- If there is any color in the toilet bowl without flushing, there is a leak

The second most common type of leak has to do with an improperly adjusted or broken fill (ballcock) valve. To check for this take the lid off of the toilet tank, flush, and see if water is draining into the overflow tubes when the tank is full.

You can also do a sound check. Simply walk up to your toilet and listen. If you hear an odd hiss-like noise, you may have a leak.

FAUCET

Leaky faucet fixtures are another all-too-common cause of leaks. A dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day or more. The EPA notes that a leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.

A visual check of your facets, shower heads and other fixtures is all it takes to identify a leak at the fixture.

The most common cause of a faucet leak is a faulty rubber washer in the faucet handle.

OUTDOOR OR UNDERGROUND

Not all leaks occur indoors. If you have an irrigation system for your landscaping, a line crack or loose joint could allow water to leak even when the irrigation system is off. To spot these leaks, you may need to check your landscaping/lawn for unusually damp patches or areas of grass that are more lush than their surroundings.

Lateral line leaks are when underground pipes feeding water from your metered connection to your home may have a crack or loose joint. These leaks vary, but things such as pipe age, seismic activity, tree root intrusion, and animal activity are often contributing factors.