

Water conservation and leak testing in your home

How to check for a water leak in your household...

Follow these steps to find out if your system has sprung a leak

Finding water leaks can save you water, which means saving money on water and sewer bills. Follow these easy steps to determine if you have a leak in one of your household fixtures.

Step 1: Find your water meter; usually in close proximity to your utility room, and determine which type you have from the three shown below:

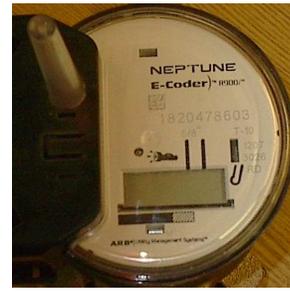
Type #1



Type #2



Type #3



Step 2: Turn all fixtures and water-using appliances off so that no water is being used. This means turning off all water inside and outside the house including showers, sinks, washing machines and any appliance that uses water.

Step 3: Watch the meter. If your meter is Type #1 or #2 it will have a triangular red or silver and black round disc that is commonly called a “leak indicator”. If your meter is Type #3 you’ll need to shine a light on the digital screen and watch for the ‘dripping tap’ icon to appear.

- If the leak indicator is spinning or the ‘dripping tap’ icon appears, you have a leak. If the actual meter dial hand or digital read-out is moving, water is running somewhere in your system and you have a leak – go back to Step 2 to double-check shut off, if all appliances are shut off go to Step 4.
- If the leak detector, dial hand or digital read-out is not moving, note the position of the hand and read-out number and wait 10 minutes. Check the meter again, if it has moved or changed, you have a slow leak - go back to Step 2 to double-check. If not, you do not have a leak. End the test and reset all fixtures and appliances.

Step 4: Check for leaks. A dripping tap is a common source of a water leak. However, the vast majority of water leaks involve a toilet. While a dripping tap is quite obvious a leaking toilet may not be so...

To check a toilet for a leak: Flush the toilet and while the reservoir is still filling, add 2 or 3 drops of food coloring to the water in the reservoir.



Wait 15-30 minutes. If the water in the toilet bowl changes colors, the flapper valve needs to be replaced. The flapper valve is located at the bottom of the tank; flapper valve kits are available at most hardware and home supply stores.



Other sources of water leaks include sprinkler irrigation systems and external hose bibs.

Should your water meter still indicate water flow after following the above steps you should consider contacting a plumbing professional for further assistance.

More information on leak testing and other water conservation tips is available on the following websites:

<http://www.cbc.ca/blueprintalberta/features/saving.html>

http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/reseau/watertips/watertips_flash_e.html

Should you have questions or require further information regarding leak detection please contact the Town Office at (780) 929-8782.

