

Checking for Leaks

Water is our most precious resource. Doing everything in our power to prevent water waste helps to conserve this vital resource while saving money. One of the most common sources of water waste is leaks.

Leaking Toilets

Leaking toilets are the most common cause of high water bills. Most people are more likely to repair leaking faucets because the drips are visible, whereas toilets go unnoticed much of the time. While toilet leaks are often difficult to detect, knowing the signs will help:

Signs of a Leaking Toilet:

- You have to wiggle the handle to make a toilet stop running.
- You hear sounds from a toilet not being used.
- You have to hold the handle down to allow the tank to empty.
- A toilet runs for 15 seconds or so without you touching the handle.

Checking Your Toilet for Leaks:

- 1) Remove the toilet tank cover and carefully set it aside. Remove any “in-tank” bowl cleaners that colour the water. Begin the test with clear water in the tank and bowl.
- 2) Put a small amount of food colouring in the toilet tank
- 3) Wait about 20 minutes, and then check for the colouring in the toilet bowl. If any of the dyed water has made its way into the toilet bowl, your toilet is leaking. In most cases the flapper could be leaking. This is a relatively simple and inexpensive part to replace, and can be purchased at your local hardware store.
- 4) While the toilet top is removed, look to see if the water level is close to the overflow pipe(a plastic pipe , with an open end just below the top of the tank)
- 5) If the water level is close, or overflowing into the pipe, this could be where water is leaking.
- 6) If the tank water level is too high, you need to adjust the ball valve with controls the amount of water in your toilet tank.

Toilets can silently leak up to 45 litres of water/hour or 394,000 litres of water/year.

Generally, the age of your toilet will determine your water usage.

- Toilets manufactured before the 1980's – up to 20 litres per flush
- Toilets manufactured during the 1980's and early 1990's – up to 13 litres per flush
- Toilets manufactured during the mid 1990's to recent years – 6 litres or less per flush

Water Taps

Check all faucets and pipes periodically. Watch for drips. Replace faulty parts. A leaking faucet can waste from 280 to 750 L of water in a week.

Leaking of hot water taps may also increase energy costs