

Leak Detection



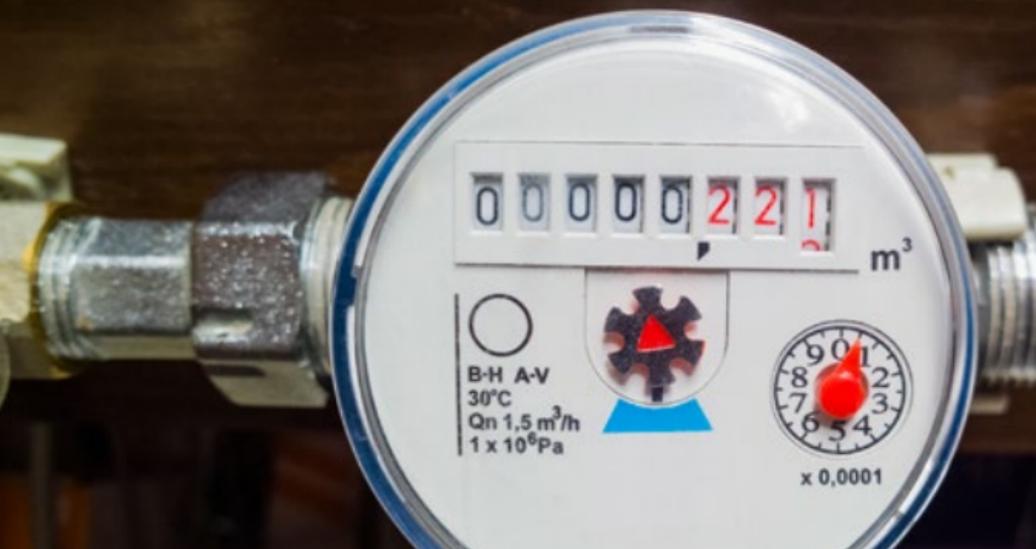
The average household's leaks can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water wasted annually



A leaking faucet that drips one drop per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water per year

Fixing water leaks can save homeowners about 10% on their water bill





How can I tell if I have a water leak?

- Turn off all water use inside and outside the home
- Locate the main water meter box, typically in the front yard by the sidewalk
- Lift the lid to the meter box
- Look for the flow indicator, which is usually a triangle or star
- If the flow indicator is moving and all water using devices are turned off, you may have a leak.

What may be leaking?

Any water-using device may leak over time or with frequent use.

- Toilets
- Sinks
- Showers
- Irrigation system
- Water softener
- Water-cooled air conditioners
- Ice machines
- Reverse osmosis units
- Pool system
- Main water service line



How do I find the source of the leak?

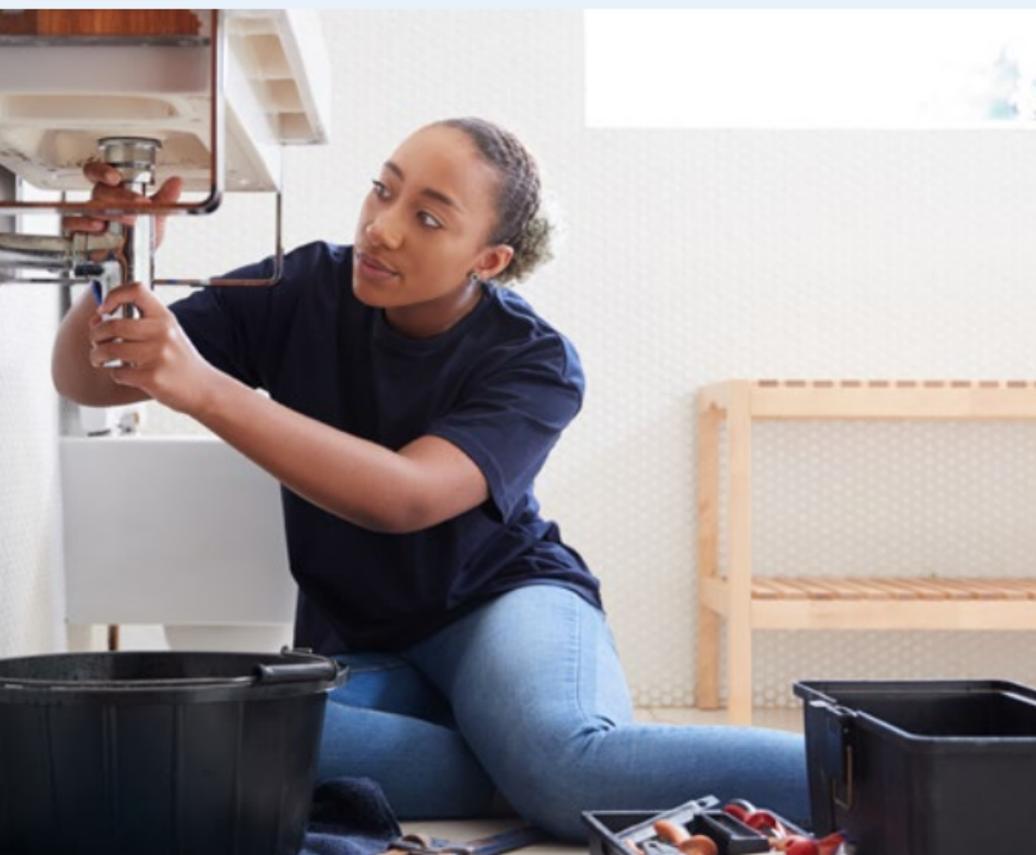
Locating leaks is often a process of elimination. Start with one water-using device at a time and systematically go through the home, both inside and outside, to find the leak.

Following are the steps to check each water-using device:

1. Turn off all water use inside and outside the home
2. Stop water flow to the device you're checking (most appliances are connected to a main valve or have a bypass lever to stop water flow)
3. Check the main water meter's flow indicator to see if it's still moving (the device you're checking is likely not leaking) or if it has stopped (the device you're checking may be leaking)

How do I fix the leak?

Some fixes are easier than others. You may want to tackle simple solutions, such as replacing a toilet flapper. Online tutorials may provide insight and instruction. But when it comes to more complex troubleshooting or repairs, we recommend contacting a professional.



Additional tips



Toilets

You can usually hear water running if your toilet is leaking. Toilet leaks often occur at the overflow pipe, plunger ball, flapper valve or rubber gasket. To check if the flapper or gasket are the source of the leak, put a few drops of food coloring in the tank and see if any seeps into the bowl. If it does, replace the flapper valve and/or the rubber gasket at the bottom of the tank. The toilet's water level should come ½ inch below the overflow pipe.



Pool system

Performing the "bucket test" is the easiest and cheapest way to determine if your pool may be leaking. To perform the bucket test, bring the pool water to a normal level. Fill a five-gallon bucket with pool water to about one inch from the top and set it on the first or second step of the pool. Mark the water level inside the bucket. Shut off the pump and mark the pool water level on the outside of the bucket. Turn the pump on for 24 hours. After 24 hours, compare the two water levels. If the pool loses more water than the bucket, you may have a leak and will want to contact a pool leak-detection specialist.



Main water service line

Turn off the water valve to stop the flow of water to your home. The main water valve is usually in your garage, frequently by the hot water heater and/or water softener. After closing the valve, go in the house and turn on a faucet to ensure the water is turned off. Then, check the water meter's flow indicator to see if it's still moving. If so, you may have a leak between the meter and valve.

