

# Detecting Water Leaks



**Water leaks account for about 12% of the average house holds water use.** Not all leaks leave evidence behind, often they are going right down the drain and the only impact you will see is on your water bill.



**Start with toilets** they are the most common and one of the easiest to troubleshoot. Put a drop of dye in the back of the tank, after 15 minutes, if there is dye in the bowl, there is a leak. **No, they can't always be heard,** many times they're silent. A bad flapper seal, damaged float and a water level set too high are the 3 causes for toilet leaks.



**Check the salt in the water softener** If there is no salt or a salt bridge has formed, the softener will regenerate more frequently and unnecessarily.



**Radiant heat or hydronic in-floor heat** systems can be determined by shutting off the boiler and water supply and checking the meter to see if flow has stopped.



**Examine appliances** like dishwashers, washing machines, water heaters.



**Whole House Humidifier** If you have a humidifier attached to the furnace. The equipment often includes an overflow drain to the sewer in case the refill valve fails to close. When the valve does fail, the water is sent directly into the sewer. This allows leaks to occur for months or years before anyone realizes the water waste.

**Inspect fixtures** like shower heads, faucets (indoors and out), sprinkler systems, icemakers, water purifiers & piping under the sink.



## Use your water meter

Leaks can start and stop so its best to trouble shoot while the leak is happening.

### How to Tell if Water is in Use

To determine if water is in use, complete the following steps:

Check the  flow indicator by closely watching it for two minutes.

Determine the following conditions

- If the arrow is flashing, then water is running very slowly.
- If the arrow is continuously ON, water is running.
- If the arrow does not flash, water is not running.

### What to Do if There is a Leak

Take turns shutting off the water valve for each fixture and check the meter to see if flow has stopped.

### If Continuous Leak is Repaired

If a continuous leak is found and repaired, complete the following steps:

Use no water for at least 15 minutes.

Check the  leak icon.

If the leak indicator is continuous ON to flashing, then a leak is no longer indicated.

### If Intermittent Leak is Repaired

If an intermittent leak is found and repaired, complete the following steps:

Check the  leak icon after at least 24 hours

If the leak has been correctly repaired, the leak icon changes from flashing to OFF.

