

# How to check for a water leak

## Follow these steps to find out if your system has 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.

**Step 1.** Turn all 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 2. Watch the meter.** Your meter will have a digital read out under the black lid. The meter will have a series of digital numbers.

- If the digital numbers are increasing, you have a leak, water is running somewhere in your system and you have a leak – go to step 3.
- If the digital numbers are not moving, note the reading and wait 10 minutes. Check the meter again, if it has moved, you have a slow leak - go to step 3. If not, you do not have a leak.



**Step 3.** Locate the main shut-off valve to the house. This is usually located close to the meter.

**Step 4.** Turn off the valve.

**Step 5.** Turn on a faucet inside the house to test.

- If water still flows from the faucet after several seconds, the shut off valve is not working.
- If no water flows through the faucet, the shut off valve is working. Return to the meter.

**Step 6.** Check if the meter's digital indicators is moving.

- If it is not moving, then you have a leak between the customer-side shut-off valve and possibly somewhere in the house. Check toilets, washing machines, faucets, etc., for any leak.

**Step 7. 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 bowl changes colors, the flapper valve needs to be replaced.