Do I have a leak?

Your water meter can tell you if water is flowing through it, even very small amounts. On the older meters, there is usually a triangle (red blue or black) that turns when water is moving through the meter.

On the new digital meters there is a black flap. Under it you will see an LCD display. If nothing is showing, shine a flashlight on the small hole with the picture of a flashlight next to it. Numbers should appear. The first numbers to appear will be manufacturer identifier numbers. They will only show a moment. After that, the numbers cycle between the meter reading, and the flow rate. The flow rate will read 0.00 if water is not flowing.

Turn all water off in the house. Check the meter. If the flow indicator is turning (it may be very slowly), or the flow rate on the digital meter is anything but 0.00, you have a leak.

PLEASE NOTE: Some leaks happen only once in a while. We call these intermittent leaks. Common causes are:

- Single control faucets that leak when you don’t center the control before you turn it off (and it drips).

- Flapper valves in the back tank of the toilet that don’t seat right once in a while. With a slow leak, it only “runs” once in a while and may or may NOT be heard.

- Garden hoses with a sprayer on the end, and the water is not turned off at the spigot.

Where is my leak?

First, determine if the leak is in the house, or is between the house and the meter. Turn off the main water cutoff for the house. Once it’s off, check your meter.

If the meter shows water has STOPPED flowing, the leak is somewhere in the house.

If the meter shows water STILL flowing, the leak is between the meter box and the house.

My leak is in the house. What now?

Check all your water fixtures for leaks.
The most common culprit is the flapper valve at the bottom of the tank on the back of the toilet. Try food coloring in the tank. Wait a bit and see if any of the colored water seeps into the bowl of the toilet. If you see color in the bowl, your flapper valve needs to be replaced.

Check your outdoor spigots, especially those with garden hoses still attached.

Faucets dripping can add up. Also single control faucets can leak if the handle is not centered before turning the water off.

Be aware, some houses have humidifiers built into the heating system. These use water, and can look like a slow leak in your system.

Your plumber can assist if your leak is extremely difficult to find.

**My leak is between the meter box and the house. What now?**

Sometimes, underground leaks will cause a wet spot in the yard. Other times the water will just seep down into the ground and will NOT be seen. Some people will try to locate the leak, and either repair it themselves, or have a plumber repair it. If the water line has been in the ground for quite a while, you might consider having your plumber install a new water line. If an old line has developed one leak, it will probably develop another later.