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DO I HAVE A LEAK?




How Do I Know if I Have a Leak?

Water leakage is a serious problem in many homes. A dripping faucet can waste thousands of liters of water a year, and a leaking toilet can lose much more than that. In both cases, the leakage often goes unnoticed because the leaked water just goes down the drain. Even when people are aware of leakage, they often ignore it because they think it is not worth the trouble to fix the problem.

The most common sources of leakage in residences are toilets and faucets. Leakage from plumbing fittings, connections, and damaged piping also occurs, but in most cases is discovered more quickly because the leakage pools on surfaces where it can be seen or - if it occurs on the upper floors of a building - water drips from the ceiling.

To determine if leakage is a problem at your home, start by looking at the toilets, faucets, showerheads and hose sprayers. To tell if a toilet is leaking, wait at least 1 minute after flushing the toilet and look inside the toilet bowl. If you see water running down the surface of the bowl, you have a leak. It may not look like much, but the wasted water adds up quickly. Also, listen for a hissing or running water sound, which also can indicate a leaking toilet. An even better way to find out if a toilet is leaking is to do a simple dye test.



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Toilet Dye Test Procedures

- Drop a dye tablet or several drops of food coloring in the toilet tank.
- Wait at least 15 minutes without flushing the toilet.
- Check the toilet bowl for evidence of coloring from the dye. If the water in the toilet bowl is colored, the shutoff device is leaking.
- Flush the toilet to prevent the dye from staining the toilet bowl.

Next, check your faucets, showerheads, and hose sprayers to see if they are dripping. Even a very slow drip of 10 drops per minute can add up to about 2,000 liters per year. Repairing these fixtures is usually simple and inexpensive. Leaking toilets can also be easy to fix, depending on the type of toilet and where it is leaking.

If you have a dishwasher or clothes washing machine, check the water connections for dripping and also look underneath them for signs of leakage. If you have a utility closet, don't forget to check for dripping faucets there also.

If you live in a villa, check the outdoor faucets for dripping. Also, if there is a hose connected to an outdoor faucet, make sure the faucet is turned off when you are not using it because the hose connections and nozzle can also leak. Check

around your yard for any area where the ground is soft or damp – that could be a sign that the underground water lines on your property are leaking. If you have an irrigation system, check it when the landscape is being watered. This is especially true if the irrigation system uses small plastic drip lines, which can be easily damaged.

It is also a good idea to check your water bill every month. If the bill increases unexpectedly, it could mean that there is serious leakage around your property. If you live in a large villa, check the water meter late at night and early in the morning. If the meter reading has changed overnight, it could mean there is leakage. Any time you discover a leak, see pooled water on the floor inside your residence, or suspect leakage, it is best to investigate and have it repaired as soon as possible. You will save a lot of money in the long run.

If you find any of these evidences of leaking water, call your facility management company (or if you own your home, a qualified plumbing contractor) and have them repair the leaking device. This will enable you to avoid excess charges in your monthly water bill.

