

Leak Detection Tips

To see if you have a leak, first you need to turn off all the water indoors & outdoors. Make sure there isn't any automatic water equipment. Then read your water meter & write it down. Wait 15 minutes then read your water meter again. If the number has changed there may be a leak

OUTDOORS

Irrigation

- What to Look for.
 - Overgrown/ green spots in turf.
 - Soggy patches.
 - Ripped or torn hoses
 - Broken sprinkler heads.
 - Leaking valves.

Hose & spigot

- The hose & spigot works like the faucets inside.
- Check the Hose & spigot for
 - Dripping joints.
 - Wet spots under the spigot.
 - Wet spots at the end of the hose when water has not been on.
 - Check the hose for cracks or rips.

Pools & Spa

- Monitor your pool/spa water level.
 - Mark the water level.
 - Write down the time & date.
 - Let your pool/spa plumbing run normally.
 - Wait a day the measure the water loss with a ruler.
 - Make a new mark of the water level.
 - Write down the time & date.
 - Turn off the pool/spa plumbing.

- Wait a day then measure the water loss with a ruler.
- If the water loss is the same whether the plumbing is running or not the leak may be in the pool/spa structure.
- If the water loss is more when the pool/spa plumbing is running the leak may be in the plumbing.
- <http://www.findaleak.ca/index.html> has steps for finding a leak.
- Ponds and fountains have many of the same problems as a pool or spa.

INDOORS

Faucets, Shower Heads and Tubs

- Check though the house for dripping faucets.
- Dripping faucets use as little as 3 gallons a day, but could be wasting more.
- The repair job may be as simple as changing a gasket or as hard as changing out the faucet.

Toilets

- Toilets usually have a silent leak..
- A toilet leak can be highly wasteful and costly.
- If the water level in the tank is too high water will countably leak down the drain.
- A high water level can be caused by
 - An incorrectly adjusted water level.
 - A damaged or incorrectly adjusted float.
 - A damaged or worn out refill valve.
- If the flipper valve is damaged or worn out water could be leaking into the bowl.
- Test this by placing dye tablets into the tank and waiting about 15 minutes to see if the water in the bowl is blue, when the toilet hasn't been flushed.

Evaporative coolers

- A leak in an evaporative cooler can last for a long time without detection.
- It is usually caused by the refill valve.
- The refill valve can jam or brake causing water to constantly flow down the overflow drain.

- A leak can easily be repaired by replacing the
 - Refill Valve.
 - Recirculation pump.
 - Water lines.

Appliances

- Any appliance that uses water has the potential to leak.
- A broken hose or pump could waste many gallons of water.
- Common appliances that use water include
 - Washing machine.
 - Refrigerator.
 - Icemaker.
 - Dishwasher.
 - Hot water heater.
 - Water softener device.