

Water Leak Detection

One of the most frustrating things as a water customer is finding a water leak. On average, each person in a household uses 1500 gallons of water each month; therefore, a family of 4 would be expected to use approximately 6000 gallons of water per month.

However, sometimes a property shows excessive water usage. There are two types of leaks; sporadic leaks and continuous leaks.

Continuous leaks are easily detected. They may manifest themselves as leaking faucets, shower heads, or continuously running toilets. If none of these are apparent, it could be a line leak. The way to check for a line leak is as follows: Find the cutoff valve where your water line enters the house and cut it off. Go to your water meter and remove the lid. Inside, you will see a water meter. The meter has a series of dials that measure water as it goes through the meter. Also on the face of the meter is a small red triangle. This dial measures small movements of water. Look to see if that triangle is rotating. It might be moving very slow, so you need to watch it for a couple of minutes. If it moves at all, it means you have a leak between the water meter and the cutoff at your house. In most cases, a plumber will need to be called to address this problem.

Sporadic leaks are harder to detect. With the cutoff at the house turned back on, if the red triangle doesn't move, and you still have a leak that hasn't manifested itself as a leaking faucet, you most likely have a leaking toilet. Although there are several ways to check for this type of leak, the foolproof method is time. Just before you go to bed, or just before you go to work, turn off the water supply to each toilet at the cutoffs located at the base of each toilet. After a period of several hours of the water supply being cut off, remove the tank lid and look at the level of water in the tank. If the level is below the discolored water line, the flapper system in the tank is leaking and needs adjusted or replaced.

In extraordinary instances, the municipal meter may not be working correctly. If you have tried everything else, contact us and we can discuss changing out the meter.