

Fixing simple water leaks can save homeowners

10%

on their water bills.

The average household's leaks account for more than

10,000

gallons of water wasted every year.

Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste

90

gallons or more per day.



BE A LEAK DETECTIVE!

SOMETIMES THE SOURCE OF A LEAK IS OBVIOUS,
BUT MORE OFTEN YOU HAVE TO SEARCH FOR THE SIGNS.



DO YOU HAVE A LEAK?

Take a look at your water usage during a colder month, such as January or February. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are serious leaks.

Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.



WHERE TO LOOK FOR LEAKS

Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe.

Check the pressure relief valve on the hot water tank.

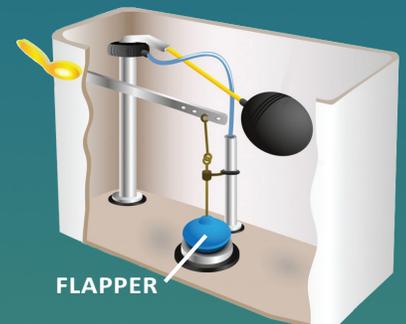
Sometimes these valves are plumbed directly into a drain and may be leaking without your knowledge. If you can't remove the drain pipe, listen for the hissing sound that indicates a leak.



DON'T FORGET THE TOILET!

Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank and wait 10 minutes. If any color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.

Turn off the water at the supply line before removing tank parts, and remember to take old toilet parts with you to the home improvement store.



Old or worn-out toilet flappers (valve seal) can cause leaks. Flappers are inexpensive rubber parts that can build up minerals or decay over time. Replacing them every 3-5 years can be a quick and easy fix for your water woes. Use of chlorine products in the tank may decrease the life of your flapper.

If the handle needs to be jiggled to keep the toilet from running, the flush level bar and chain (or the handle itself) may be sticking. Adjust the nut that secures it in the toilet tank. If that does not work, the handle may have to be replaced.