



Detecting a Water Leak

One of the major causes of high-water consumption resulting in a high-water bill is due to a plumbing leak, toilet leak, or irrigation system leak or malfunction. Your water meter may be your most useful tool in identifying water leaks on your property. If all sources of water are turned off in the house (washing machine, dishwasher, etc...) a leak can be determined by reading your water meter.

All of the water meters contain a leak indicator, such as a red dial in the lower area of the meter that turns when water is being used.

Should this dial turn, or the numbers advance when no water has been used, this indicates a leak exists in your plumbing system. If the leak indicators show no indication of movement, to determine if a leak exists, read all the numbers on the water meter and make a note or drawing of the meter face and where all meter dials are located. Do not use any water for a least 2-4 hours. Next, reread the meter to see if the dials or numbers have moved. If movement has occurred, you have a leak.

To easily check if a toilet has a leak, perform a dye test. Place several drops of food coloring in the tank of the toilet but DO NOT FLUSH. Let the food coloring stand for 30 minutes to 1 hour if possible. Now check the toilet bowl. If the coloring has now appeared in the bowl, your toilet "flapper" valve needs replaced. If no color appears in the bowl or tank, your "flapper" needs to be replaced. If the food coloring is still in the tank, the toilet most likely does not have a leak.

Sprinkler systems can use a lot of water. To figure out how much water your sprinkler system uses each time it runs its regular cycle, go out to your meter and write down the reading before it runs, then again, the next morning. Subtract your numbers. That number will indicate the amount of water traveled through the sprinkler system for the regular cycle. Make sure you complete an inspection of the sprinkler heads to make sure they are not broken. Also, after a power outage, check your programming to make sure it has not been reset.

Should a leak be found, please contact City Hall at 903-547-2261 to discuss a possible reduction to the bill due to a leak.