



Leak Detection Helpful Hints

Toilet

Detection:

There are a number of signs that a toilet needs some repairs, but many toilets leak without conspicuous indications of trouble. Here are some of the more obvious signs of a leaking toilet:

-If you have to jiggle the handle to make a toilet stop running.

-If you have to hold the handle down to allow the tank to empty. This can also mean the chain or strap is too long and doesn't lift the flapper or ball high enough to float on its own.

-If you see water running over the top of the overflow, you definitely have a leaking refill valve. If you are unsure whether or not water is running over the top of the overflow pipe; sprinkle talcum powder on top of the water in the tank, and you can clearly see whether or not it is.

-If a toilet turns the water on for 15 seconds or so without you touching the handle, this is otherwise known as the phantom flusher.

However, even if your toilet doesn't have any of these symptoms, it's still possible that it is leaking. These leaks are known as SILENT LEAKS, because they usually go undetected.

In a properly functioning toilet, water should only move from the tank to the bowl when the toilet is being flushed. A leaking toilet loses water from the tank to the bowl without flushing. Also, take notice of the water level in the toilet tank. The water level should never reach the top of the overflow tube. If it does, place the overflow tube to avoid wasting water.

There are two ways to determine if you have a leak:

1. Add dark food coloring or blue toilet cleaner tablets to the toilet tank and wait 40 minutes. Be sure to add enough to color the water in your tank a dark color. Do not flush. If the water in your toilet bowl changes colors, you have a leak.
2. Shut off water to the toilet tank and flush. Once the tank is empty, touch the flapper, if a rubbery residue from the flapper comes off on your hand, you have a leak.

Repair: The cause of most toilet leaks is a worn out flapper or ballcock.

A new flapper is relatively inexpensive and easy to replace.

Flappers can be found at local hardware stores and home improvement stores.

Be sure to bring your old flapper when purchasing a new one.



CONSERVATION TIP

Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.



Leak Detection Helpful Hints

Bathroom, Kitchen and Outdoor Faucets

Detection:

Most faucet leaks are plainly visible as drips coming out of the faucet aerator. Occasionally, faucets may leak in other places such as the on/off handle(s) or in the pipe below the basin. You may have a leak in the piping if there are visible drips coming from the piping or if there are wet, damp areas underneath the sink.

Repair:

Faucets typically leak because of bad rubber washers, old gaskets or O-rings and corroded valve seats. If you decide to fix the faucet yourself, make sure you bring along the old faucet and parts when visiting the hardware or appliance store. Ball-type faucets have these parts.

A repair kit will have the key parts to replace to stop drips. Ball-type faucets have these parts.

Bathtub Faucets and Showerheads

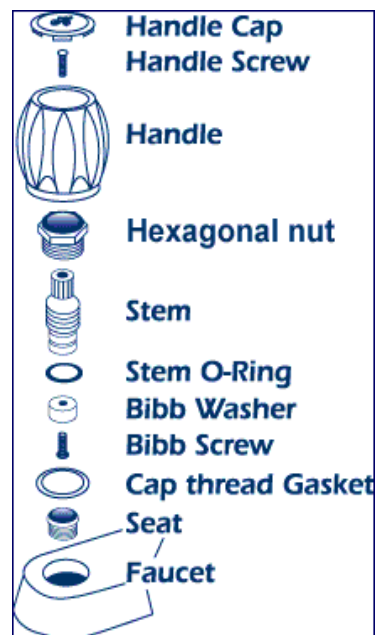
Detection:

Most bathtub leaks are visible by drips coming from the tub spout. Occasionally, bathtub faucets may leak in other places such as the hot and/or cold water handle(s). Most showerhead leaks are visible by drips coming from the showerhead.

Repair:

If you find a fixture that is leaking, turn off the water shutoff valve for that device and then locate the leak.

Next try to tighten any fittings that leak. A quarter or half turn with a wrench might do the trick. Be careful not to over-tighten fittings.



CONSERVATION TIP

Replace leaky drain plugs in sinks and bathtubs.

A "trickling" faucet can waste 19 gallons of water a day or 7,000 gallons a year.



Leak Detection Helpful Hints

Whole-House Humidifier

Detection:

Whole-house humidifiers work by bringing air into the main unit and passing it through a system of filters and water to add moisture to the air. The air is sent back into the home through the heating system. Regular maintenance should keep a humidifier working well, but if issues arise, troubleshooting may be useful.

Repair:

1. Drain the water reservoir tank, which may leak if it becomes too full. Most humidifier holding tanks have a floating mechanism that may get stuck or dislodged if too much water enters the tank, allowing water to leak. Once the tank is drained, the float mechanism should return to its proper position.
2. Tighten all valves, connections and fittings on the humidifier.
3. Place a towel under the water valve and turn off the humidifier. Check the water valve and clear away any obstructions. Clean the water inlet screen on the water hose and reconnect the hose to the valve. Verify that the water valve is completely turned on once it is reconnected. Restore the power.
4. Turn off the humidifier and open the front access panel to slide out the filter. Clean the filter with warm, soapy water and rinse until the water runs clear. Allow the filter to air dry thoroughly. Restore the filter in the humidifier and return power to the unit.



Service Line from Meter to Home

Detection:

A leak in the service line from the water meter to the home is generally indicated by greener patches of grass in the yard.

Repair:

Each individual property owner must take whatever steps he/she deems necessary to fix the plumbing problem on his/her property.



CONSERVATION TIP If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the shower-head with a water-efficient model.