

THE FACTS ON LEAKS



percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day



A leaky faucet dripping at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than

3,000 gallons
per year

Did you know?

Minor water leaks account for more than



trillion gallons

of wasted water each year and is equal to annual household water use in



million homes



A shower leaking at

10 Drips

per minute wastes more than

500

gallons per year

REPAIR

leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary



Replace old toilets with WaterSense models & save



13,000
gallons of water savings
for the average family

Homeowners
can save



10 percent on their water bills



epa.gov/watersense

Checklist for Chasing Down Leaks

Here are some of the places leaks may be hiding in your home.

Some leaks require a simple fix—a worn toilet flapper, loose pipe connection, or showerhead with stray spray. But you may want to consult a licensed plumber to stop your running toilet, broken sprinklers, water heater drips, or malfunctioning water supply lines. Take a quick inventory of clues to water waste:

IN THE BATHROOM

- Toilets: Listen for running water and conduct the food coloring test described on the first page.
- Faucets: Listen for drips and turn on the tap to check for water going the wrong direction.
- Showerheads: Turn on and look for drips or stray sprays that can be stopped with tape.
- In the tub: Turn on the tub, then divert the water to the shower and see if there's still a lot of water coming from the tub; that could mean the tub spout diverter needs replacing.
- Under the sink: Check for pooling water under pipes and rust around joints and edges.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Faucet: Listen for drips and tighten aerators or replace fixtures if necessary.
- Sprayer: Check to make sure water is spraying smoothly and clean openings as needed.
- Under the sink: Check for pooling water under pipes and rust around joints and edges.
- Appliances: Check for pooling water underneath dishwashers and refrigerators with ice makers, which could indicate a supply line leak.

IN THE LAUNDRY OR UTILITY ROOM

- Under the sink: Check for pooling water under pipe connections.
- Clothes washer: Check for pooling water, which could indicate a supply line leak.

IN THE BASEMENT OR UTILITY ROOM

- Water heater: Check beneath the tank for pooling water, rust, or other signs of leakage.

DON'T FORGET TO GO OUTSIDE

- At the spigot: Ensure tight connections with the hose and see if the hose washer needs replacing.
- In-ground irrigation system: Check for broken sprinklers or nozzles spraying in the wrong direction. You may want to consult an irrigation auditor certified by a WaterSense labeled program to improve system efficiency: www.epa.gov/watersense/find-pro.

FOR THE KIDS



Kids aren't just the leaders of tomorrow, they're the dreamers and do-er's of today. "Test Your WaterSense" and try other fun activities at Flo's Kids Zone at: www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids.

THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE

Check for signs of moisture or mold on your walls, ceilings, or floors. This could indicate that a pipe is wreaking havoc behind the scenes and requires the attention of a professional.

If you want to do a more detailed investigation for leaks, check out the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association Smart Home Water Guide at www.smarthomewaterguide.org.

If any of your fixtures needs replacing, remember to look for the WaterSense label when purchasing plumbing products. WaterSense labeled products are independently certified to use at least 20 percent less water and perform as well or better than standard models.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week.

MARK AN X FOR LEAKS

