



## Checking for leaks

The meter is a great tool for checking your home for leaks. Now that you are familiar with where your meter is located and how it works, follow these steps to see whether you have a leak.

### Step 1. Stop using water

Turn off all water inside and outside the house including showers, sinks, the washing machine, and any other appliance that uses water.

### Step 2. Watch the meter

- Carefully take the lid off the water meter box.
- If your meter has a triangular blue or red “leak indicator” dial and it is spinning, you may have a leak.
- If there is no leak indicator and the actual meter sweep hand is moving, water is running somewhere in your system and you may have a leak.
- If the hand is not moving, note the position of the hand and wait several hours, making sure not to use any water in the house or yard. Check the meter again. If it has moved, you may have a slow leak.



## Checking for a toilet leak

The toilet is one of the most common places to find leaks in the home. Sometimes it's easy to tell whether a toilet is leaking – you hear water running. But leaks can be silent too. Checking for toilet leaks is easy:

- Step 1.** Remove the toilet tank lid.
- Step 2.** Place a dye tablet or 10 drops of food coloring into the toilet tank. Do not flush.
- Step 3.** Wait 10-15 minutes. If color appears in the bowl, this means water is leaking from the tank.
- Step 4.** Replace or repair your toilet. A detailed brochure on repairing toilet .<https://www.wikihow.com/Fix-a-Running-Toilet>

### Step 3. Find the leak — indoors or outdoors?

If you do have a leak, you will need to determine whether it's an indoor leak or an outdoor leak.

- Locate the main water shut-off valve in your house. It is usually located near the hot water heater, which may be in your basement or garage.
- Turn off the valve.

### Step 4. Test the valve

Turn on a faucet inside the house to test your shut-off valve.

- If water still flows from the faucet after several seconds, the shut-off valve is not working. There is no way to tell whether the leak is indoors or outdoors.
- If no water flows from the faucet, the shut-off valve is working. Return to the meter.

### Step 5. Check whether the meter's leak indicator or dial hand is moving

- If the leak indicator or dial hand is still moving, water is flowing between the meter and the shut-off valve in the house. That means you may have a leak between the shut-off valve and your meter, possibly an underground leak.
- If the hand is not moving, you may have a leak somewhere within your home's plumbing system. Possible sources are leaking toilets, faucets, appliances or even garden hoses.

## Next Steps

- The property owner is responsible for water pipes from the meter to the house. A permit from the Permits & Development Services' Division may be required for repairs. Call 972-562-0522 for information.
- Assistance may be available for income-qualified homeowners for leak repairs. Call for more information.
- Customers who have completed leak repairs within 90 days of notification of increased consumption may request an adjustment to their bill. Call Customer Service at 972-886-4242 for more information.
- Additional information on leak detection is available on our website, [www.fairviewtexas.org/water and trash/high water usage](http://www.fairviewtexas.org/water-and-trash/high-water-usage)

