



# *Tips to Reduce Your Water Bill*

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## **Check for Leaks**

If you have a leak at your house, you are wasting water and money. A toilet that leaks can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day, and a dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day! By identifying and fixing these common sources of leaks, you can reduce your water use and water bill.

### **Identify Toilet Leaks**

- Place a few drops of food color or a colored drink such as kool-aid in the tank at the back of your toilet. Don't flush or use the toilet during this test.
- Wait at least 15–30 minutes before flushing the toilet. Some slow leaks won't show up right away, so it is best if you can do this test over a longer period of time, such as before you go to work or to sleep at night.
- After waiting, lift up the lid and look in the bowl of the toilet. If the colored liquid appears in the bowl, you have a leak.
- Most toilet leaks are caused by worn plunger balls or flapper valves in the toilet tank. You can purchase these replacement parts at your local hardware store to make the repair yourself, or you can consult a plumber.

### **Identify Faucet Leaks**

- Faucet leaks are easy to detect. If a faucet drips or runs, it needs to be fixed because it is wasting you water and money.
- Most faucet leaks are caused by worn washers or "O" rings. These replacement parts can be purchased from your local hardware store.
- If your faucet is leaking, turn off the water supply to that faucet, replace the worn washer or "O" ring and then turn the water back on.

### **Check for Other Leaks in Your Home**

- You might have a silent leak elsewhere in your house that is costing you money. To check for leaks throughout your house, use your water meter.
- Start by turning off the main water valve in your house. This valve is usually located where the water enters your house or near your washing machine or water heater.
- Locate your water meter outside. It is usually located close to the street in the ground in front of your house. Remove the water meter's lid, write down the water meter's reading and replace the lid.
- Wait about 30 minutes, then remove the lid and take a second reading. If the dial has moved at all, you have a leak.