

HOW TO CHECK FOR A WATER LEAK

Follow these steps to find out if your system has sprung a leak

Finding water leaks can save you water, which means saving money on water and sewer bills. Follow these easy steps to determine if you have a leak in a domestic or a sprinkler irrigation system.

Step 1: Turn all water-using appliances off so that no water is being used. This means turning off all water inside and outside the house including showers, sinks, washing machines and an appliance that uses water. If you have a sprinkler irrigation system, turn off the controller and manually shut off the two valves at the double check valve assembly (DCVA) to isolate the irrigation system.

Step 2: Take the lid off the meter box and lift the protective cover.

Watch the meter. Your meter will have a triangular red or silver and black round disc that is called a "leak indicator."

- If it is spinning, you have a leak. If there is no indicator and the actual meter dial hand is moving, water is running somewhere in your system and you have a leak – go to step 3.
- If the hand is not moving, note the position of the hand and wait 10 minutes. Check the meter again, if it has moved, you have a slow leak – go to step 3. If not, you do not have a leak.

Step 3: Locate the main shut-off valve to the house. This is usually located close to the meter box.

Step 4: Turn off the valve.

Step 5: Turn on a faucet inside the house to test.

- If water still flows from the faucet after several seconds, the shut off valve is not working.
- If no water flows through the faucet, the shut off valve is working. Return to the meter.

Step 6: Check if the meter's leak indicator hand is moving.

- If the leak indicator or dial hand is still moving, water is flowing between the meter and the shut-off valve. That means you have a leak between the meter and the customer-side shut off valve.
- If it is not moving, then you have a leak between the customer-side shut-off valve and possibly somewhere in the house. Check toilets, washing machines, faucets, etc., for any leak.

Step 7: To check a toilet for a leak:

- Remove the top off the tank and listen very closely. If you hear any hissing at all, try to locate where it is coming from.
- If nothing is noticeable, flush the toilet and while the reservoir is still flushing add 2 or 3 drops of food coloring to the water in the reservoir.
- Wait 15-30 minutes. If the water in the bowl changes colors, the flapper valve needs to be replaced.

Step 8: Check your hot water tank:

- Check the Pressure Relief Valve on the hot water tank. Sometimes these valves are plumbed directly into a drain and may be leaking without your knowledge. If you can't remove the drain pipe to check for a leak listen for a hissing sound, it may be leaking.

If a leak is found you can assess if you want to do the repair yourself, or call a plumber.

OUTAGE INFORMATION:

IF A PROBLEM ARISES, THE HOMEOWNER/RENTER IS REQUIRED TO CONTACT THE CITY OF BOERNE FIRST. IF YOU FAIL TO CONTACT THE CITY, AND IT IS LATER DETERMINED TO BE SOMETHING THAT COULD HAVE BEEN REPAIRED BY CITY CREWS, THE CITY WILL NOT REIMBURSE FOR EXPENSES INCURRED.