

# HOW TO DETECT LEAKS

If your water bill is higher than normal, the first thing you should do is read your water meter to be sure the reading is correct. If you are not familiar with how to locate and read your meter, please refer to the section titled “How To Read Your Water Meter” on this website before continuing.

If the reading is correct, you may have a leak. Your water meter can be a valuable tool in detecting water leaks in and around your home. Two of the most common sources of leaks in our service area are the toilet and lawn sprinklers.

Leaking toilets are a major source of excess water use. If your toilet runs often you should have the mechanisms in your tank completely replaced. Sometimes toilets will have a “silent leak” that you may not hear or notice. Slow leaking toilets can waste up to 100 gallons of water per day. To determine if your toilet is leaking, put several drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch the bowl of the toilet for a few minutes to see if any of the food coloring appears. Check again in fifteen minutes. If the coloring appears in the bowl this means you have a slow leak. Dye tablets for this purpose are available in the business office along with a conservation kit for saving water other places in your home.

Automatic sprinklers are another major source of excess water use. Even with modern technology for cycling sprinklers on and off, these cycles can be interrupted and altered by power failures. To determine the amount of water your sprinklers are using, take a reading of your water meter before the scheduled cycling on of the sprinklers and then take a reading after the sprinklers have cycled off. Many times, sprinklers are scheduled to cycle on and off during the nighttime hours. We suggest taking a meter reading before you go to bed and then first thing in the morning. You should also regularly inspect each sprinkler head for breakage or leaking. Many times a broken sprinkler head is the source of your high water usage.