

FINDING & FIXING

# Leaks



One Trillion Gallons of Water

*Lost by U.S. Households Each Year*



10% of U.S. Homes

*Lose 90 Gallons Daily*



10 Gallon Water Loss/Day

*Caused by Leaky Faucets*

*It only takes 10 minutes to search and find common household water leaks.*

## COMMON HOUSEHOLD WATER LEAKS

Water leaks found at home are often easy to fix, requiring only a few tools and hardware. The most common types are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and other leaking valves. Fixing these leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills.

## CALL IN THE EXPERTS

You may want to contact a licensed plumber for larger projects such as water heater drips, broken water pipes or appliances, water softener problems, and outdoor irrigation issues. If you choose to hire a professional to assist with your leak, we suggest getting more than one bid for your project and receive all information in writing. Customers should request copies of the contractor's license, insurance certificates and references.

## CONTINUE TO CONSERVE

If any of your fixtures needs replacing, remember to look for the WaterSense label when purchasing plumbing products. Valley County Water District offers rebates for washing machines, toilets and irrigation controllers. For details and more information visit: [socalwatersmart.com/en/residential](http://socalwatersmart.com/en/residential).



## FINDING AND LOOKING FOR LEAKS



### *Start in the Bathroom*

- **Toilets:** Listen for running water and conduct the food coloring test by putting a few drops into the tank at the back of your toilet. Let it sit for 10 minutes and if color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.
- **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 spout; that could mean the tub spout diverter needs replacing.
- **Under the sink:** Check for pooling water under pipes and rust around joints and edges.



### *Go Outside*

- **At the spigot:** Ensure tight connections with the hose and see if the hose washer needs replacing.
- **Outdoor irrigation system:** Check for broken sprinklers or nozzles spraying in the wrong direction. Outdoor water use can account for over 60% of overall water use for homes.



### *Don't Forget 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.



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

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*Check for signs of moisture or mold on your walls, ceilings, or floors. This could indicate that a pipe has broken and requires the attention of a professional.*

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## *For More Information*

Call (626) 338-7301 or Visit us Online at [www.vcwd.org](http://www.vcwd.org)

