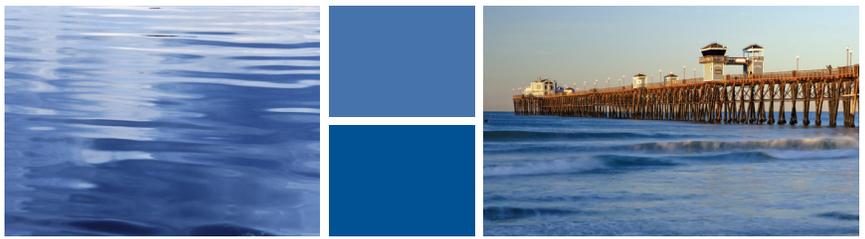


# Fixing Leaks

## Save Water, Save Money



**Reminder! Next July your sewer rate will be based on how much water you use now, during the winter months. Fix leaks now for savings next summer.**

### Leak Facts

As provided by the EPA <http://www.epa.gov>

- The average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year, or enough water to wash nearly 10 months' worth of laundry.
- Household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons annually nationwide. That's enough water to supply Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico for more than a year.
- Keep your home leak-free by repairing dripping faucets, toilet flappers, and showerheads. In most cases, fixture replacement parts don't require a major investment.
- Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.
- Common types of leaks found in the home include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and leaking showerheads. All are easily correctable.
- Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners more than 10 percent on their water bills.

**Take advantage of a FREE WaterSmart Checkup to help you find leaks. An independent, certified professional will visit your property and provide site-specific water-saving recommendations.**

Mission Resource Conservation District  
Phone: 866-883-1332  
<http://watersmartcheckup.org>

### Testing a Toilet for Leaks

When it comes to high indoor water use, leaky toilets are the number one culprit. Take this opportunity to save water, save money and lower your sewer bill. Repairs are usually inexpensive and relatively easy to do.



**It's simple to test a toilet for leaks. The following is a step-by-step process.**

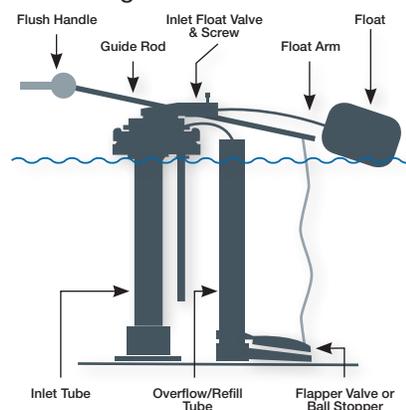
1. Remove the lid from the toilet tank.
2. Put a few drops of food coloring (like you use to make holiday cookies) into the TANK.
3. Replace the lid on the tank and walk away for 15 minutes. (Don't let anyone use or flush the toilet during this 15-minute period.)
4. After 15 minutes come back and look in the toilet BOWL. If there is colored water in the bowl, you have a leak.

### Toilet Leaks – Three Myths

The following are the most frequently heard reasons why people do not test their toilets.

1. **My toilet can't be leaking; I just installed it.**  
Toilets should always be tested immediately after installation and twice a year after that. Often new installations are not seated on the floor properly or water levels in the tank are set too high, among other installation-related issues. The only way to be sure a toilet is not leaking is to test it.
2. **My toilet can't be leaking; I would hear the water running.**  
The water level in the tank should be set one inch below the overflow tube. If the water level is too high, it muffles the sound of the water filling the tank.

#### Toilet Diagram



3. **My toilet can't be leaking; there is no water on the bathroom floor.**

While water on the floor can indicate a leaky seal or gasket, most toilet leaks are internal. The mineral elements in our Colorado River water can build up on rubber flapper valves so they no longer seal properly. When that happens, water begins to drain continuously from the tank into the bowl and down to the sewer without anyone using the toilet.

**Residential rebates of \$50 are available with the purchase of a new high-efficiency toilet. Visit the website below for details.**

