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## Checking For Leaks

### USING THE METER TO CHECK FOR A LEAK IN YOUR HOME:

1. Turn off all faucets and appliances, including any outside faucets, which use water and make sure that nobody in the house uses any water during the testing period.
2. Take a reading on your water meter, wait for about 30 minutes and then take a second reading. If the numeric dial has moved you have a leak. Remember a lot of the meters only register 100 gallons, so it may take awhile to find a small leak using this method.
3. Also on the top of most water meters there is a little red dial or wheel that indicates the movement of water through your meter. This is not the same dial as your numerical dial. If everything is shut off inside and outside the house, this little red dial / wheel should not be moving. If it is moving you have a leak.

### CHECKING TOILETS FOR LEAKS:

The most common source of leaks is the toilet and often they cannot be heard.

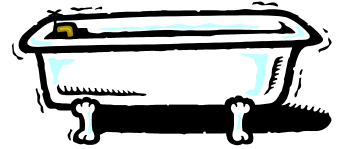
1. Check toilets for leaks by placing a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If after 15 minutes the coloring shows up in the bowl, the toilet has a leaking valve.
2. According to experts, many leaking toilet problems can be blamed on toilet cleaning tablets or drop in containers that distribute chlorine into the tank water. The soft rubber or vinyl flapper valves and other components lost 50% of their useful life because of those cleaners. These tablets have also been known to float towards the drain hole and can get caught holding the flapper up just a little. Most leaks in a toilet can be stopped simply by tightening up the connections using a wrench but we must warn you to not overdo it or you may crack the bowl or tank. If you find a leak at the ball cock connection you can try tightening the nut at the bottom of the ball cock assembly (where the water supply line enters the tank) from both the inside and the outside of the tank. Other tips such as checking the stopper at the bottom of the tank and making sure the chain from the float to the stopper is not hanging down in the drain under the stopper can save you water and money.

### **HOW MUCH WATER AM I LOSING FROM THAT DRIPPING FAUCET?**

<p><b>ONE DRIP PER SECOND</b></p> <p>1 MINUTE LOSS = 1/12 OUNCE            1 HOUR LOSS = 6 OUNCES            1 DAY LOSS = 1 GAL. &amp; 1 PINT            1 WEEK LOSS = 8 GALLONS            1 MONTH LOSS = 34 GALLONS</p>	<p><b>TWO DRIPS PER SECOND</b></p> <p>1 MINUTE LOSS = 1/3 OUNCE            1 HOUR LOSS = 20 OUNCES            1 DAY LOSS = 3 2/3 GALLONS            1 WEEK LOSS = 26 GALLONS            1 MONTH LOSS = 100 GALLONS</p>
<p><b>DROPS BREAKING TO STREAM</b></p> <p>1 MINUTE LOSS = 2 OUNCES            1 HOUR LOSS = 1 GALLON            1 DAY LOSS = 24 GALLONS            1 WEEK LOSS = 175 GALLONS            1 MONTH LOSS = 700 GALLONS</p>	<p><b>1/16" STREAM</b></p> <p>1 MINUTE LOSS = 7 1/2 OUNCES            1 HOUR LOSS = 3 1/2 GALLONS            1 DAY LOSS = 64 GALLONS            1 WEEK LOSS = 575 GALLONS            1 MONTH LOSS = 2,500 GALLONS</p>
<p><b>1/8" STREAM</b></p> <p>1 MINUTE LOSS = 23 OUNCES            1 HOUR LOSS = 11 GALLONS            1 DAY LOSS = 260            1 WEEK LOSS = 1,800 GALLONS            1 MONTH LOSS = 7,800 GALLONS</p>	<p><b>3/16" STREAM</b></p> <p>1 MINUTE LOSS = 39 OUNCES            1 HOUR LOSS = 18 GALLONS            1 DAY LOSS = 425 GALLONS            1 WEEK LOSS = 3,000 GALLONS            1 MONTH LOSS = 12,750 GALLONS</p>

## HOW MUCH WATER DOES IT TAKE?

- ◆ It takes 36 gallons of water to take a bath and 25 to 50 gallons of water to take a shower.



- ◆ It takes 5 to 7 gallons of water to flush a toilet.



- ◆ It takes 5 to 10 gallons of water for every minute you water your lawn or garden.



- ◆ It takes 10 gallons of water to use an automatic dishwasher.



- ◆ It takes 2 gallons of water to brush your teeth and 2 gallons of water to wash your hands.



**\* A TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD IN THE UNITED STATES USES 240 GALLONS OF WATER A DAY. \***

## Online Sites for Calculating your Daily Water Consumption

U.S. Geological Survey – How much is your daily indoor water use?

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/sq3.html>

WECalc – Your Home Water-Energy-Climate Calculator

<http://wecalc.org/calc/#>

CSG Network – Water Consumption Calculator

<http://www.csgnetwork.com/waterusagecalc.html>

Tampa Florida – Water Use Calculator

[http://www.tampagov.net/dept\\_water/information\\_resources/saving\\_water/Water\\_use\\_calculator.asp](http://www.tampagov.net/dept_water/information_resources/saving_water/Water_use_calculator.asp)