
Detecting Water Leaks in Your Home

Every month when reading water meters, we find a few homes that have used a large amount of water. When this happens, we notify the property owner, as they may want to check for a leak inside their home. In most instances the leak is found inside the tank of a bathroom stool (the rubber flapper that lets water from the tank enter the bowl is most often the cause of the problem). The other major cause of leaks in the tank is the filler valve assembly. This assembly can be out of adjustment, letting the tank to over fill or it can just be leaking.

It is important to note that regular tank maintenance can help prevent leaks. The rubber flapper should be replaced every two to three years. Always replace parts with high quality parts. The filler valve assembly should last several years depending upon the quality.

Here are a few tips to help you check for a leak:

1. Listen. You may be able to hear the water moving through the valve assembly inside the tank.
2. Put your hand on the side of the tank. If the tank is cold or sweating and you have not flushed it for a while you may have a leak.
3. Take the tank cover off and check the water level of the tank. It should be set so it is below the over flow level.
4. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. In ten minutes check the bowl. If any of the colored water is in the bowl you need to do maintenance of the tank.
5. You can also check the water meter that is inside your home. In the center of the register that is on top of the water meter there is a black triangle. This black triangle will move clock-wise whenever water is being used. When you know that no water is being used, take a look at the meter. If the black triangle is moving, you have a leak. The water meter is able to detect even a very small leak. If you see that the water meter shows that you are using water and you are unable to find a leak, call the Manchester Water Department. We will be glad to come to your home and check to see if we can assist in finding the leak.

Even with a small leak, water consumption adds up quickly. It seems amazing that a half-gallon per minute leak will add up to 21,600 gallons of water used in a 30 day time period. Drippy faucets should be fixed as soon as they start. These leaks will never get better on their own and can waste a lot of water, and can end up costing the property owner a lot of money.