

Have you ever wondered if you have a water leak? You can use your water meter to help you find out.



Leaky Faucets:

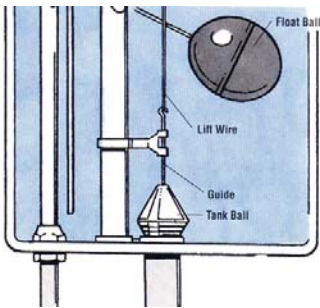
The next place to check for leaks is your sink and bathtub faucets. Dripping Faucets are easily recognized. You will have a faucet that does not completely turn off, and you may hear an annoying "drip, drip, drip". Replacing the rubber O-ring or washer inside the valve can usually repair dripping faucets.

Running Toilets:

Leaking toilets are more difficult to detect. Water loss may be caused by leaking parts or an incorrect setting. You may not always hear the problem.



If the flapper valve in the toilet tank is not seating well, water will flow from the tank to the bowl and eventually down the drain as the bowl fills to a certain level. This problem can be detected by putting some food coloring into the tank. Wait a while and see if the water in the bowl has begun to change color. If so, the flapper valve is the problem. Check more than once. The flapper valve may seat properly some of the time, but not all of the time. This can make this type of water loss difficult to detect.



Another way that water loss can occur in a toilet is through the overflow in the tank. The overflow is the open pipe, usually located in the middle of the tank. If the float allows water to rise too high, water will go into the overflow pipe and down the drain. The best way to detect this is to take the top off the tank and see if water is at the top of the overflow pipe. If it is, the float may need to be adjusted.

Checking for a Leak at the Water Meter:

When you open the water meter pit, the meter should be in the center of the pit in a level position. On occasion, you will find the meter tilted. It still works fine, but it is harder to read the odometer.

If water is in the meter pit, it does not mean that you have a leak in your water line. It usually comes from ground moisture due to rain or sprinkler systems.

If you notice water spewing from the meter or the meter connections (the nuts and bolts that connect the meter to the cut-off valve or your water line) call City of Arvada Utilities Dept. for assistance at 720-898-7760 during normal business hours or 720-898-7820 after hours or weekends and holidays. If you notice a leak on the line that goes to your house, call a plumber.

Checking for a leak beyond the water meter:

If no leak is detected in the meter pit, your next step is to look at the water meter register. You may have to wipe the register face off with a wet towel to see the entire meter face. Do not tamper with the electronic meter reading device, if your meter is equipped with one. Dirt usually settles on the meter from month to month due to rain, irrigation and other moisture getting into the meter pit.

Here's where it gets a little complicated, but you can do it. To detect a leak, turn off all water in the house and watch the star-shaped red dial in the middle of the register for movement. (Remember: If you have an icemaker or some other device that automatically turns water on, it will be detected at the water meter.)



Example: If the red dial moves two tenths of a gallon in one minute you are using one gallon of water every five minutes or 12 gallons of water per hour. If all water in the house is turned off, there should be no flow of water through the meter. If the red dial is continually moving forward, and all water is turned off in the house, you may be losing water by several methods.

Landscape irrigation problems can also result in water loss. These problems normally occur when sprinklers are on. There may be a break in the line or a malfunction in one of the sprinkler heads. Check to see if some parts of your lawn remain wet even when the sprinklers have not been on.

Remember: These are just suggested places to look for water loss first, and are not intended to be all-inclusive. If you will check these things first, it may save you both time and money. If you need additional assistance please call us at 720-898-7760 Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm or after hours, weekends and holidays call 720-898-7820.