

Be a Leak Seeker...



DO YOU KNOW WHAT A LEAK IS? Water dripping out of a faucet can be a leak. Sometimes water leaks where we cannot see it. That wastes water! In this experiment, you will try to find a leak around your house. Fixing a leak can save lots of water (and money)!

1. Walk around your house and listen for a "drip, drip, drip" sound. If you do hear a drip, head to the faucet and turn it off.
2. Head to the bathroom. If you hear the toilet running for a long time after it's been flushed, it may be leaking.

- ◆ You can help save water by telling an adult about the leaks you find.
- ◆ Tell your friends and family that leaks waste water.
- ◆ Remind everyone that they are water-saving device #1.

Silent, But Costly

Did you know that there are some leaks you cannot hear? They're called silent leaks, yet they still waste water and money. You can check for leaky toilets by doing a simple dye test that will detect leaks. Here's how:

- Make sure you have help from an adult.
- Carefully lift the lid off the back of the toilet tank.
- Put a couple of drops of food coloring or sprinkle powdered Kool-Aid mix in the back of the tank.
- Wait at least 10 minutes (do not use or flush the toilet during this time).
- When ten minutes is up look in the toilet bowl. If color from the food coloring or Kool-Aid mix shows up in the toilet bowl, there's a leak!
- Usually, it's a simple fix...the flapper gasket needs to be replaced because it's not getting a tight seal.



Don't Be a Drip

It's only a small drip...right? Wrong! Slow drips of water add up quickly. A toilet that "keeps running" after you flush it or a faucet that drips after it's turned off can waste thousands of gallons of water a year. Plus, if the drip is hot water, you'll be paying for wasted energy too. Fix leaks as soon as you discover them...they won't just go away on their own.

This chart shows how much water can be wasted by a small steady leak.

Diameter of Leak	Gallons Wasted (monthly)	Gallons Wasted (annually)
1/4"	393,833	4,725,996
3/16"	222,000	2,664,000
1/8"	98,666	1,183,992
1/16"	24,666	295,992

Facts & Figures

- ◆ A dripping faucet or hose bib can lose almost 200 gallons of water a month.
- ◆ Leaks can account for, on average, 11,000 gallons of water wasted in the home every year, which is enough to fill a swimming pool.
- ◆ A leaking toilet can use 90,000 gallons of water in 30 days.
- ◆ Approximately 1 in every 20 pools has a leak.
- ◆ Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.