

***Boyle Skene Water Association***  
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## **How to Detect a Water Leak**

Your water meter can be a valuable tool in detecting water leaks in and around your home. Make sure no water is running.

1. Turn off all faucets and water-consuming appliances - including your automatic ice maker and your evaporative cooler.
2. Read your water meter. Write down the current reading including tenths of a cubic foot or mark your meter with a felt pen over the needle.
3. Read the meter again after 10 to 15 minutes.  
If the meter reading has changed, or the needle has moved, you have a leak.

## **Leaks**

Are water leaks costing you money? Periodically you should:

- Check all faucets for drips. Replace worn and leaking washers, gaskets, pipes or defective fixtures.
- Check for leaks on outside faucets, and make sure the valve closes properly.
- Check toilets for leaks--they are the most common cause of high bills! Check the overflow of the tank to make sure no water is running over (float level may be set too high). The flapper valve in the bottom of the tank may also be a source of a possible leak. To check for a flapper valve leak, put a small amount of food coloring in the toilet tank after it has filled. Do not flush the toilet for at least an hour, or overnight if possible. If the food coloring shows up in the bowl without flushing, you may have a leaking flapper or plunger ball valve. Note: Kool-aid also works as a coloring agent.

## **Water Loss**

- Leaking Toilet @1/2 GPM = 21,600 Gal/mo
- Drip Irrigation @1 GPM = 43,200 Gal/mo
- Watering Garden for 2 hours @ 5 GPM = 18,000 Gal/mo
- Watering Garden for 2 hours @ 10 GPM = 36,000 Gal/mo
- Unattended Water Hose 1 night @10 GPM = 5,400 Gal/mo
- Broken Services Line 1 night @15 GPM = 8,100 Gal
  - 1 day @15 GPM = 21,600 Gal
  - 1 week @15 GPM = 151,200 Gal
  - 1 month @ 15 GPM = 648,000 Gal
- Stuck Ice Maker @ 2 GPM = 86,400 Gal/mo
- Stuck Check Valve in Washing Machine - 30 minutes = 240 Gal
- Stuck Float Valve in Watering Trough @ 5GPM = 216,000 Gal/mo

## **Typical Uses**

- 1 Bath = 42 Gal
- 1 Shower = 17 Gal
- Wash 1 Load of Clothes = 45 Gal
- Flush Toilet = 3 Gal