

# Water Leak Detection Guide



## The facts on water leaks

Water leaks can happen to anyone, and most leaks are silent, making them hard to find.

Leaks can come from:

- toilets
- bathtubs
- washing machines
- sprinkler systems
- dishwashers
- showers
- water softeners
- pools

They can cause a high water and wastewater bill and costly damage to your home if you don't stop them in time.

## How to find a water leak

There are **two ways** to test for water leaks in your home:



### 1. Test your toilet

The most common cause of high water and wastewater bills is toilet leaks. Here's how to test your toilet:

**Step 1:** Remove the tank lid from the back of the toilet.

**Step 2:** Put one dye tablet or five drops of food colouring in the toilet tank at the back. You could also use Worcestershire sauce or another dark liquid.

**Step 3:** Close the toilet lid and wait 30 minutes – do not use or flush the toilet during this time. Then look at the water in the toilet bowl. If you see coloured water in the toilet bowl, you may have a leak. If the bowl water is clear and all the coloured water remained in the tank, that means the toilet likely doesn't have a leak.

**Step 4:** Repeat these steps with every toilet in your home.



### 2. Check your water meter

**Step 1:** Record the number on your water meter before going to bed, then avoid using water or running sprinklers, appliances or toilets overnight.



**TIP:** the water meter is typically located in the basement.

**Step 2:** In the morning, check the number on your water meter. If the number has changed, this indicates water has passed through the meter meaning you may have a water leak somewhere inside or outside your home.

## Found a water leak?

If you suspect you have a water leak, contact a licensed plumber to investigate and resolve the leak as soon as possible.