

How We Use Water

More water is used in the bathroom than in any other room in the home. Three-quarters of all household water goes down the bathroom drains, with most of it being flushed down the toilet.



Drinking
and Cooking

5%



Laundry

20%



Showers
and Baths

30%



Toilets

45%

Flushing Out the Facts

Some of the most common water leaks are due to:

- faucets
- bathtubs and showers
- household humidifiers and water softeners
- appliances, including the dishwasher and washing machine
- automatic sprinkler systems
- swimming pools

But the culprit that truly takes the cake is the toilet. Toilet leaks are the most common cause of high water and

wastewater bills. Some toilet leaks are due to high water levels and problems with parts found inside the flush tank, such as the overflow tube or plunger ball.

You can reduce your water bill by up to 10 per cent by fixing simple leaks, such as worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and leaky valves.



Water Conservation

Fresh clean water is a precious resource, so it's important to work together to protect and conserve it. Simple water conservation practices not only save money on your bill, but also help preserve our natural environment.

Helpful Tips:

- Limit showers to five minutes (long hot showers can waste 10 to 20 litres of water every extra minute).
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when they are full to save up to 3,000 litres of water a month.
- Only water your lawn or garden when needed (depending on the weather or type of plants/turf, you may only need to water once or twice per week).
- Use a rain barrel to collect rainwater that can be used for watering gardens.
- Check for outdoor leaks in pipes, hoses and faucets (leaks outside the home can be just as wasteful and costly as leaks inside the home).

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VAUGHAN



BE

**WATER
WISE**

LEAK DETECTION GUIDE

A guide for understanding
residential water usage and detecting
common household leaks



LEAKY Faucet Fix Up

Tighten the tap handles.
If leaking persists,
replace washer.

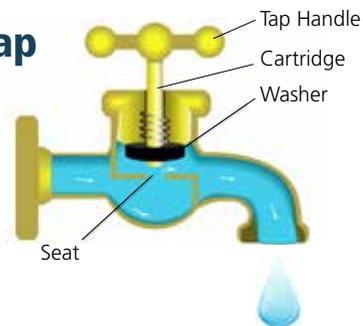
What you'll need:

Adjustable wrench, a standard-blade screwdriver or a Phillips screwdriver (for older plumbing fixtures)

What to do:

1. First, close the shut-off valve usually located under the sink.
2. Turn the shut-off valve clockwise to tighten it.
3. Screw the tap handle off.
4. Remove the cartridge to reveal the washer.
5. Replace the washer with a new one.

Open Tap



Check the Water Meter

What to do:

1. Make sure no water is being used in the home by shutting off all taps and appliances that use water.
2. Locate your water meter and watch it for at least one minute.
3. If the leak detector is spinning or you see a plus (+) sign, you may have a leak.
4. Check your taps, toilets and appliances for leaks, or call a plumber if required.

Digital Meter



If you see a plus (+) sign or the leak detector is spinning, you may have a leak.

Mechanical Meter



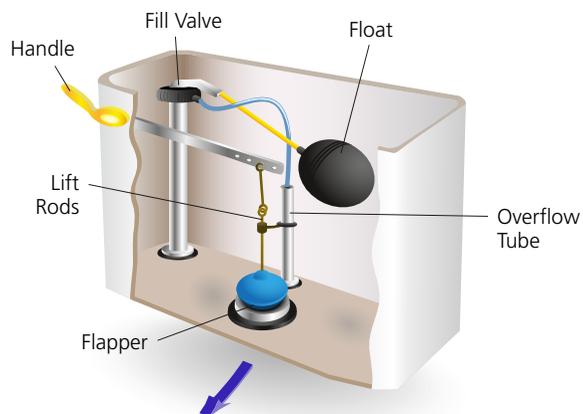
Toilet Test

What you'll need:

Food colouring or a dye tablet

What to do:

1. Remove the tank lid from the toilet.
2. Add five drops of food colouring or a dye tablet to the tank.
3. **Do not flush.**
4. Wait five minutes.
5. If coloured water seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. The flapper valve may need to be realigned. If the bowl is clear, and all the coloured water remains in the tank, you do not have a leak.



Flushing Mechanism

Leaks That Lurk

Remember, you may not always hear a water leak. Most leaks are silent and don't necessarily make their presence known through puddles on the floor or "drip-drips" from the faucet.

A silently leaking toilet could cost you more than **\$1,000 a year!**

Down the Drain



Bigger leaks wreak more expensive havoc, so take immediate action when a leak is detected to help protect your wallet and conserve water. So, just how much could a continuous leak cost you?

- **A leak the size of a period (1/32 inch)**
180 cubic metres of water per year
COST: \$640 per year
- **1.5 millimetres (1/16 inch) in diameter**
1,122 cubic metres of water per year
COST: \$4,000 per year
- **3 millimetres (1/8 inch) in diameter**
4,458 cubic metres of water per year
COST: \$15,000 per year

1 cubic metre = 1,000 litres

GOING AWAY?

These tips will help protect your home against leaks while you're away.

1. Keep the temperature of your home at a minimum of 15 C.
2. Turn off the main indoor water shut-off valve, then drain your pipes.
3. Have someone check on your home, particularly during extreme temperatures.