

# Be a Leak Detective!

*Water leaks waste money and a valuable resource!*

One of the first indications of a water leak is an unexplained increase in the monthly water bill. If an increase in usage can't be explained (extra people in the house, lawn watering, faucet left on, etc.), there is a good possibility that a toilet is leaking, a faucet is dripping, or there is a break in the water line between the meter and the house. Other sources of leaks can be the sprinkler system, the water softener, or the automatic fill on the swimming pool.

To identify leaks, start by monitoring the water meter, but you'll need to do this when no one is home to be using water. First, turn off all water inside and outside the house. Write down the reading on the meter and the position of the sweep hand. Don't use any water for at least two hours. At the end of that time, read the meter again. If the second reading is different from the first, you'll know that water flowed through the meter, and the challenge is to find the leak.

Check the **toilets** first; this is where most household water leaks occur. *A leaking toilet tank can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day and cost you 62 cents per day, or \$18.60 per month!*

1.



2.



3.



To check for a leaking toilet, you will need some food coloring (any color). Flush the toilet. Then put enough coloring in the tank to color the water. Do not flush the toilet again for at least an hour. If the water in the bowl of the toilet shows the coloring, there is a leak that will need to be repaired.

**Water faucets**, inside and outside of the house, can also leak undetected. *Even the smallest drip can waste up to 20 gallons per day. That's about 6 cents per day, \$1.83 per month, and \$21.96 per year!* In most cases, a leaking faucet is caused by a worn washer or "O" ring, and they are not difficult to replace.

Water softeners, sprinkling systems and swimming pools with automatic fill devices are other possible source for leaks.

Once the source of the leak is discovered, fix it. Every day it continues, valuable water and money are wasted...right down the drain! 💧



## WATER FACTOIDS...

- 💧 The human body is made up of 65 percent water; the brain is 75 percent water.
- 💧 If every home in this country had a faucet that dripped one drop a second, we would waste 928 million gallons of water each day -- that's enough water to fill more than 7-1/2 billion 8 oz glasses.
- 💧 99 percent of the earth's water is in the oceans. Only 1 percent is available for human consumption.