

# WATER LEAKS

## A QUICK GUIDE TO FINDING AND FIXING LEAKS



### SINKS

When you tightly shut off your faucet and the tap keeps dripping, the problem may be with the washer. It may be worn out, or improperly fitted. Washerless faucets may need to be replaced or rebuilt.

### TOILETS

Many toilet leaks are silent, even new toilets can leak. If your toilet continually drains or refills, the plunger ball or flapper valve probably needs replacing. If the water flow doesn't shut off after flushing, you may have to adjust or replace the float ball.

### SHOWERS

When water drips from a shower head, there is most likely a problem with the shower faucet valve. In most cases, inner seals are worn, or parts have become corroded or clogged with hard water deposits. Check the rubber O-rings and gaskets that seal connections.



### REFRIGERATORS

Blockage of the defrost drain due to ice or food debris is a fairly common problem.

*Create a simple maintenance schedule to check for leaks twice a year.*

*Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.*

### DISHWASHER

A leaking door seal, water pump seal, or broken hose can cause puddling around the bottom of the dishwasher. A bad water inlet valve will usually cause a slow drip from the top of the valve.

### HOT WATER TANKS

A loose drain valve is one of the most common reasons for a hot water tank to slowly leak. Tighten until snug, but do not overtighten. Overpressurization of the tank will force water to leak out of the tank (usually indicating that the hot water heater is set too high). If you suspect that your hot water tank is old, you may want to replace it with a more energy efficient one.

*To check if your toilet is leaking, do the dye test! Drop one dye tablet or 10 drops of food colouring into the tank. Put the lid back on, don't flush. Wait at least 10-15 minutes, and then look in the bowl. If you see coloured water, you have a leak. If not, you don't.*



### SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Check for soft spots on your lawn. This could be indication of a leak flowing into the ground. Leaky zone control valves, low-head drainage, or broken pipes could be the culprit.

### OUTSIDE FAUCETS

If leaking is spotted around the handle when the water is turned on, tighten the packing nut behind the handle. If the faucet still leaks, the washer on the end of the valve stem most likely needs replacing.

### WASHING MACHINE

The most common leaks are from the drain and fill hoses. The water pump or drain pump could cause slight leaking. Check for loose hose clamps. If leaking occurs during the wash or spin cycle, the tub cover gasket may be the problem.



### OUTSIDE SERVICE LINE

If you hear water running outside the house or notice a soft, wet spot the service line may be leaking. To be sure, call Public Works.

*Using your water meter, the following steps will allow you to perform a simple leak test:*

*1) Turn off water both inside and outside of the house.*

*2) Make sure that all appliances that use water are not in use at the time of the test.*

*3) Take a reading of your water meter and record that reading.*

*4) Wait 15 minutes before reading your meter again and record that reading.*

*5) If your meter has recorded water usage during this 15 minute period, it could be due to a leak*

For assistance, or further information please call 519-376-4440 Ext. 1243 or email [waterbilling@owensound.ca](mailto:waterbilling@owensound.ca)

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