

## IT COULD BE A LEAK!

A sudden increase in your water charges could be the result of a water leak. Water leaks are often silent and unnoticeable until you get a high water bill. Even the water from an outside water line leak does not always surface to the top of the ground.

To check for a leak, first turn off all faucets in and around the house. Make sure the dishwasher and washing machine are not on. Find your water meter which is usually located in your front yard near the property line. If you are unsure which meter is yours, call 542-4621 x23 and I will verify your serial number. Also, be very careful of any bugs, spiders, or snakes.

Look for a leak indicator on your meter. These are usually in the shape of a small triangle and found somewhere in the middle of the meter. If the indicator is spinning, water is running through the meter and you have a leak. If you do not have a leak indicator, write down all of the numbers on the register. Leave all of the water off in the house and check the meter again in two to three hours. If the numbers have changed, you have a leak. Meter readings work similar to a car's odometer reading. As water goes through your meter, it forces the numbers to turn.

Now that you know you have a leak, you need to find out where it is. The most common culprit is a toilet. ~~A hanging flapper or a flapper that is not seated correctly can cause water to constantly seep from the tank to the bowl.~~ Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank (the back of the toilet). Let it sit for 15-20 minutes without flushing. Then check the bowl for traces of the food coloring. If the water in the bowl is colored, you have found a leak. Other common leaks are faucets that drip or slowly run.

If the leak is still not detected, check all outside faucets and make sure they are not leaking.

Next, find the cut off valve for the main line to your house. It should be near where the water line enters your house. If you don't know where your cut off valve is, follow a straight line from the water meter to your house and look for it in that area. Cut this valve off. If the numbers on the meter are still turning, you have a leak in this line and need to call a plumber. To eliminate unnecessary water charges, it is in your best interest to find all leaks and have them repaired as quickly as possible.

