



WATER TIPS

INVESTIGATE AND REPAIR SMALL LEAKS FOR BIG SAVINGS

WASTE

A small water leak can add up to a large amount of wasted water and a larger water bill.

A leaky faucet dripping one drop per second can waste as much as 3,150 gallons of water per year. A slow steady stream (5 drops/second) can waste up to 15,570 gallons of water per year.

A toilet that runs continuously can waste 30-500 gallons per day.

Leak detection can be a simple task and can yield savings on water utility bills, as well as prevent water damage.

FINDING AND FIXING LEAKS

Common sources of leaks include toilets, faucets, water heaters, clothes washer and dishwasher supply lines, and evaporative coolers. Faucet leaks are typically visible but ignored; other leak sources may require investigation.

To check for a toilet leak, add a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If the color leaks into the bowl, the flapper valve or tank gasket may need to be replaced.

Check the condition of hoses and connections to washing machines, icemakers, dishwashers, and other appliances. Tighten connections and replace cracking, bulging, or damaged hoses.

Check pipes for pinhole leaks that can waste 360,000 gallons of water per year.

Outside, areas of fungus growth, soggy ground, unexpected vegetation, or unusually lush vegetation may indicate an underground leak.

OTHER STEPS

The water meter can also be used to detect leaks. First, turn off all water consuming appliances, including ice-makers and evaporative coolers.

Newer meters may have a leak detection hand. Any movement of this hand with water off indicates a leak.

If the meter does not have this hand, write down the current meter reading. Check the meter again after 30-60 minutes. If the reading has changed, there is a leak.

If a leak is found and fixed, the water authority may adjust the surcharges and winter average for the account.

For information on local plumbers, contact NAIOP at naiopnm@spinn.net or HBA at kmartinez@hbacnm.com. For information on free water use audits, visit <http://www.cabq.gov/waterconservation>.

