



A Homeowner's Checklist

Check for common problems Before calling a Plumber

- Check your leak detector needle to see if it's moving.
- Audit your meter for a full night. Write the number down before you go to bed. Be sure that no one uses water after this time. Write the number down again in the morning and subtract the difference. If the number is the same then no consumption was detected. If the number has changed and no one used water, this indicates that you have a leak somewhere.
- Audit your irrigation system. Write down the number on your meter. Run your irrigation system for one complete cycle. This will tell you how many gallons of water you use each time your system runs.
- Audit your irrigation system one zone at a time. Repeat the above procedure for each individual cycle. If you notice that one zone in your system is using more water than the other zones this may be an indication that there is a leak somewhere in that portion of your irrigation lines.
- Check your backflow device for leaks.
- Check inside your meter box for standing water. If the leak is on the homeowners side you are responsible for repairs.
- Audit your meter for inside versus outside usage. If your leak detector needle is moving turn off the shut off valve at your house. (Note, not all homes have one). If you turn off the water TO the house and the leak detector needle continues to move, this indicates that there is a leak somewhere between the meter and your home.
- Call a professional water heater contractor to drain the storage tank and remove inside sediment buildup or follow your product guide.
- Dye test your toilets. Using tablets available at your local hardware store or food coloring, color the water in your tank. Let this colored water stand for approximately 20 – 30 minutes. If the colored water leaks down in the bowl, you have a leak in your toilet. This is typically a faulty flapper valve that can be easily replaced.
- Check all the faucets indoors and out for signs of dampness. Leaks do not always leave a puddle in the yard or on the floor. Water can hide in walls or under homes. A damp fixture could be a sign of a leak in that area of your home.
- Look for signs of water leaks along external pipes, where pipes run through walls or under the foundation of your home.
- Look for signs of pipe corrosion that can eat away the piping material and cause water to leak out.
- Test water pressure in faucets and showerheads. Poor water pressure may indicate sediment accumulation or a problem in the water supply line.
- Check the speed of drainage in sinks, bathtubs and showers. Drains should have a full swirl when draining. Slow drainage may indicate a blocked drainpipe. If bubbles appear while water is draining out, this is also a sign of a problematic drain.
- Flush each toilet and check for proper flushing. Open the tank and check for rusty or broken parts. Check that water does not continue to run after flushing and make sure there is no sign of water pooling around the base of the toilet.
- Look for loose or cracked tiles in bathrooms or near water pipes. Fractured or slack tiles could be caused by old or active water leaks that rot the surface behind the tile.

