

Facts About Leaks



10% of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.



The average household leak can waste more than 10,000 gallons of water every year.



An average of 18,000 customers receive a leak notification from Cleveland Water every year.



Fixing minor household water leaks can save you about 10% on your water bill.



Cleveland Water

1201 Lakeside Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44114
216.664.3130 | clevelandwater.com



Cleveland Water

HOW TO FIND & FIX LEAKS



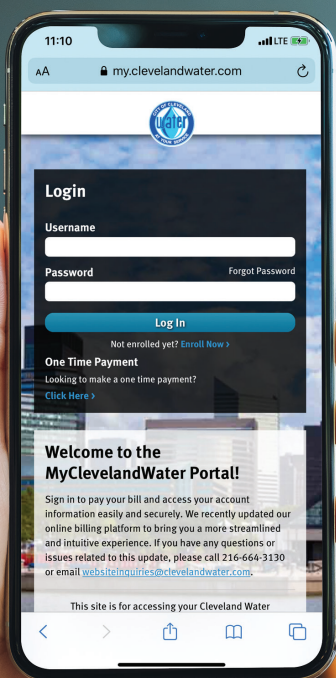
clevelandwater.com

How to Check for Leaks

The easiest and quickest way to know if you have a leak is to sign up for the Cleveland Water web portal. Customers who create an account at my.clevelandwater.com automatically receive a leak notice if their meter registers continuous water usage for 7 consecutive days.

You can also check for a leak in your home by following these simple steps:

1. Turn off anything that uses water inside or outside your home.
2. Check around faucets, toilets, water heaters, etc. for signs of a leak like puddles of water or drips.
3. Find your meter. This is typically located in your basement. On the meter, locate the blue star, white triangle, or red circle-shaped test wheel on the register face.
4. If the test wheel is spinning even though no water is being used anywhere, you most likely have a leak somewhere.



Where to Find & How to Fix Leaks

Typical sources of leaks are often easy to fix, requiring only a few tools and hardware that can pay for themselves in water savings.



Toilets

A running toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons of water or more per day.

The most common cause of a toilet leak is the rubber flapper valve. Over time, the valve becomes worn out and it does not seal shut anymore. Replacing the valve is usually a quick and easy fix. One way to find out if you have a toilet leak is to place a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. Wait 15-30 minutes without flushing. If the color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.



Faucets

A leaky faucet that drips at a rate of 1 drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water per year. That's the amount of water needed to take more than 180 showers.

Most faucet leaks can be reduced by checking the washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary. These are inexpensive, available at most hardware stores, and easy to install.



Showerheads

A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons of water per year.

Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by ensuring a tight connection between the showerhead and pipe stem by using pipe tape to secure it. You can also check and, if needed, replace the washer inside the showerhead. You may also consider replacing an old showerhead with a more efficient, low-flow one.



Appliances

Appliance leaks are one of the most common issues causing costly water damage. A burst washing machine or dishwasher hose can send gallons of water flooding through your home.

Check any water-using appliances, such as dishwashers, refrigerators, washing machines and water heaters, for water puddles or drips. These appliances often have plastic or rubber hoses that should be regularly checked for clogs, cracks or tears. Tighten any connections and inspect any tubes or hoses, replacing them if necessary. When possible, use reinforced steel-braided hoses.



Outdoors

An irrigation system that has a leak 1/32nd of an inch in diameter (about the thickness of a dime) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.

In-ground irrigation systems, garden hoses, and spigots are often the source of leaks outside of the home. If you have an in-ground irrigation system, check it each spring before use to make sure it wasn't damaged by frost or freezing. Check your garden hose for leaks at its connection to the spigot. If it leaks, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.



WaterSense Products

If you're upgrading fixtures or appliances, look for products with the U.S. EPA's WaterSense label. The WaterSense label makes it simple to find water-efficient products that meet EPA's criteria for efficiency and performance. WaterSense-labeled products are certified to use at least 20% less water, save energy, and perform as well as or better than regular models.