

# HOW TO CHECK FOR A WATER LEAK

If you notice a substantial increase in your water consumption on your water bill, you may have a leak. The first places to check are possible leaky faucets. Replace them if they continue to drip. Small leaks can add up fast and make a difference in your water bill.

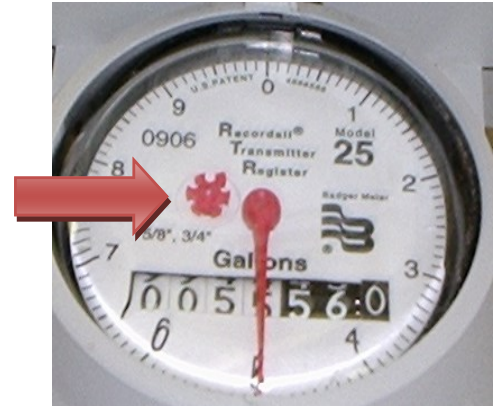
Two other common areas where leaks take place are water softeners and toilets. There are a couple of easy steps you can take to check these areas in your home.

## Toilets

With energy saving toilets, you may not hear the water running and therefore not be aware you have a leak.

There is one simple test you can complete to check your toilets. Lift up the back part of the toilet (known as the tank) and put a couple drops of food coloring in it. Wait 30 minutes without flushing, and if the food coloring ends up in the front part of your toilet (known as the bowl) you have a leak.

The seal on the inside of the tank may not be sealing properly. The amount of food coloring that ends up in the bowl may indicate how big the leak is. Although it may be a small leak it does not mean you should ignore it, because a small leak can become a big leak.



*Water meter*



*Water softener*

## Water Softener

If you hear water running all the time in your basement, you may be hearing your water softener continually cycling. If you are not sure, locate where your water meter is and make sure all water inside and outside of the house is off. Then look at the red dial on your meter (indicated with an arrow in the above picture). If it is moving you may have a leak.

## Questions

If you have any questions on how to check for a water leak or on your water bill, please contact City Hall at (608) 868-6900 ext. 1.