

Finding a Leak



Where, Oh Where, Could Your Water Leak Be?



It is not uncommon for continuous water flow issues to occur in a home or business. Most of the time, they are easy to find and easy to repair. The City of Beverly Hills has a helpful tool called “Water Tracker” that shows the customer their daily water use. Plus, it notifies the customer of continuous flow issues (such as a leak or the irrigation being stuck on). To sign up or Water Tracker, visit: <http://water.beverlyhills.org/>

BASIC AREAS TO LOOK FOR LEAKS

Area	Leak (gallons/hr)	How to Detect It
Toilet	Up to 200	Put a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank and wait 15 minutes. If food color leaks to toilet bowl, you have a leak. To avoid staining the toilet, flush after test is completed.
Irrigation	Up to hundreds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check each head and riser for leaks. 2. Check the valve to see if it is leaking. 3. If there are no leaks here, turn off the valve that moves water to your irrigation system (not all homes have this) – Note that this has nothing to do with your irrigation controller. Underground irrigation leaks are more common in older, galvanized pipes.
Water Heater	Up to hundreds	Check your heater water leaking into a nearby drain. (Note: This can also cause an increase to your gas bill.)
Pool, Pond or Jacuzzi	Up to hundreds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check float valve to see if it’s functioning properly. 2. Check auto fill to see if it’s running. Check the water feature for leaks.
Pipes	Up to hundreds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check pipes to house, especially older, galvanized steel. 2. It may take a leak detection company to detect more challenging leaks.

If you cannot find the issue, try to isolate it. Check your water meter (see “How To Read Your Meter” flyer) to see the flow rate. Shut off the valve that supplies water to the irrigation (your gardener may have to help) and check the meter again. If the short read on the meter shows “0”, the issue is in your irrigation. If the meter is still registering a flow, turn off the water to the house and check the meter again. If the meter read does not change, the issue may be in the service line (the pipe going from the house to the meter). For leaks you cannot locate or fix yourself, contact a plumber or leak detection company. FYI - A leak of 1 gallon per minute could cost you \$600 to \$1,800 a billing cycle!



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Printed on recycled paper

1/2023