



with
Solano Irrigation District

#StriveFor25

CHECKING FOR LEAKS

Strive For 25

Common Sources of Leaks

Toilets – *The greatest cause of water losses in the home.*

- Inspect the flapper valve for a leak. Perform a “dye test”. Place dye tablets or food dye in the toilet tank and wait 15 minutes. If the water in the bowl turns color, it may be time to replace the flapper valve.
- Check the water level in the tank. If water is flowing into the overflow tube, adjust the water level so that it is 1” below the tube to prevent water from flowing out of the tank through the overflow tube.
- Does your toilet only run at night? This may be due to higher pressure in some water distribution systems at night when people are using less water, resulting in “water creep” inside the gravity fed tank. A water level adjustment in the tank might prevent the leak.
- Inspect the flush mechanisms. The float may not be shutting off the refill valve, or the refill valve is worn. Replace as necessary

Faucet – *A drop every 2 seconds can waste more than 1000 gallons/year*

- Common problems are old and faulty gaskets or O-rings, and corroded valve seats.
- The most common mistake when making repairs is not using the correct sized parts, or installing parts in the improper order.
- Check for the types of faucets being repaired or replaced. There are four basic types of faucets in most homes: compression valve, ball types, cartridge types, and ceramic discs. Note faucets that are “washerless” (port-type faucets), or compression.

Bathtub

- Most drips are visible, but occasionally bathtub faucets may leak from hot or cold water handles. Try using your water meter to detect a leak.
- Fix leaks in pipes immediately, before a serious break occurs.

Outdoor Irrigation Systems

- Inspect your property for leaks. Check the backflow prevention device, irrigation valves and look for wet spots, small holes and depressions, as these may indicate an underground leak.
- Check irrigation valves for signs of leaks such as mud or standing water.
- Observe sprinkler heads when they are not running. Continuous seeping often indicates a malfunctioning valve that is not closing properly.
- Inspect drip irrigation emitters and tubings, sprinkler heads, and riser pipes.

Pools, Spas and Fountains

- Inspect equipment, especially around pipe joints. Look for wet spots that might indicate an underground leak.
- Perform the bucket test. Place a bucket on a pool step without submerging it. Fill with water equal to the level of water in the pool. After 2-3 days compare the two water levels. If the pool level is lower than the bucket level, there is probably a leak.

**SOLANO
IRRIGATION
DISTRICT**

Water Conservation Hotline

(707) 455-4050

More Info Available at:
www.sidwater.org/strivefor25

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