



Zone 7 Water Agency

Wasting Less Water

A single drop of water leaking from a sink can add up to 2,400 gallons of wasted water a year! Most leaks aren't that difficult to detect and repair, so a small amount of effort can make a major difference. Here are some ways to reduce water waste:

- Fix drips in sinks and showers as soon as they're noticed.
- Check pipes under sinks for leaks and fix them promptly.
- Replace washers. Repair or replace the fixtures if necessary.
- Check overflow pipes in the toilet to be sure water isn't draining. Add food coloring to toilet tank water and leave it for 15 minutes without flushing. If colored water has made it into the toilet bowl, you probably have a leak.
- Inspect connections for the dishwasher and other appliances to make sure they're tight and dry.
- Check hose connections for leaks, and check joints and pipes for pinhole leaks.

To check your water system for leaks, follow these steps:

- Locate the water meter. They're usually in the basement or wherever the water line enters the home. Some meters are not accessible to homeowners. Check with city officials if you can't find yours.
- Read the meter twice. Check it first at night, after you're done using water for the day. Then check it again in the morning, before you've used any water.
- Find the difference. If there's more than a tiny difference, you probably have a leak.
- If you have a leak, check pipes, connections, etc. Have it repaired soon.