

Finding a Leak

The City of Dahlonega's Household Leak Detection and Mitigation Ideas

Leaks occur in many different places, often go undetected for an extended period of time and potentially turn a minor problem into a very costly one. There is no one easy method to detect leaks. A comprehensive approach must be used to inspect all of your household's appliances, fixtures, or fittings. The following are suggestions of different methods that can be employed. To begin, turn off any water being used in the home, get a notebook, pen & flashlight!

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TOILETS - THE #1 HIDDEN LEAK

Toilets are the most common source of leaks in the home and usually go unnoticed. Complete the two inspections below to make sure your toilets aren't your most costly fixture!

1. Take the cover off the tank and see if any water is dripping or running into the overflow tube. If water is flowing into the overflow tube, adjust the height of the float. If water is dripping out of the fill valve, try tightening or replacing the screw.
2. Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank, DO NOT FLUSH. Check back in an hour. If the food coloring is in the bowl a leak may be present.

MAIN LEVEL

1. Look for pipes leaking under sinks, and wet or stained carpet, walls or ceilings.
2. Leaking faucets are usually an easy fix, often times just needing a washer replaced.
3. Without actually touching the pressure relief valve on your water heater, listen for water flowing through any connected hoses or look at the end of the hose for running water. *Hot water heaters can be dangerous, so it is recommended to speak to a specialist about repairs.*

BASEMENT & CRAWL SPACE

1. Look for leaking pipes or water that has pooled on the ground. No water should be moving through the pipes. Listen for sounds of running water and make note of potential problems.

OUTSIDE

1. Over time spigots can start to drip from the nozzle or where the spigot meets the house.
2. Soft, muddy areas and patches of grass that seem greener may be signs of an underground pipe leak.

HELPFUL HINTS

1. Follow this [link to Learn More Tips](#).
2. Call 811 to find out where gas and power lines are buried before you start probing or digging.
3. Identify the location of the main cutoff valve for future repairs needing the entire water source turned off.



Contact the City of Dahlonega at (706) 864-6133 for additional assistance.