

Water leaks can cost you money and waste water. Here is what you can do if you suspect a leak:

- Check your Utility Bill.** Compare your current water usage on your [utility bill](#) to the same months of previous years. Unusually high water usage may indicate a leak.
- Check your Water Meter.** Write down a meter reading, and check it again a few hours later (*make sure not to use any water while performing this test*).
- Try a Slow Leak Test.** Stop using any water and watch the small triangular-shaped dial located on your water meter for a few minutes. The dial will move or spin if there is a leak. Small or slow leaks will cause the dial to spin very slowly while more significant leaks will cause the dial to turn quickly.

INDOOR LEAKS

- Toilets.** If your toilet has a leak, you could be wasting about 200 gallons of water every day. Check for toilet leaks by adding several drops of food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes.
- Faucets & Showerheads.** Check all faucets and showerheads for drips. A slow drip can waste as much as 20 gallons of water each day. Austin Water offers [free conservation tools](#), including a water-efficient showerhead & faucet aerator.
- Washing Machine & Dishwasher.** Look for water on the floor near your washing machine or dishwasher, it could mean a leak.
- Water Heater.** Water dripping down the side of the tank could mean the pressure relief valve is stuck.

OUTDOOR LEAKS

- Irrigation System.** Check the irrigation system for damage, especially before turning the system back on for the spring and summer irrigation season and after mowing your lawn.
- Soggy Spots.** Soft, soggy, spots in your yard or uneven plant growth might be a sign of a leak in your underground water pipes.
- Home Foundation.** Standing water around the foundation could mean your underground pipes have become damaged.
- Lookout for Algae.** A buildup of algae on the ground or walls around the outdoor spigot may be the result of an undetected leak.
- Pool Levels.** Use a grease pencil to mark the desired water level, watch for a drop of 6 inches or more per month. This amount typically indicates a leak. Be sure to check the pumps as well as the area around the water pump for any signs of escaping water.