Leak Detection

Leaks not only cause water loss, but may lead to high water bills. The best way to check for leaks in the entire plumbing system is to take a meter reading. Record the water meter reading at a time when no one will use any water to the residence for several hours. Then, after several hours, take another reading. We recommend that customers take the first reading before they go to sleep and the second when they arise. The two readings should be the same if no one has used water in the house for several hours. If the readings are not the same, you probably have a leak.

Also note the fine flow indicator, which is a small triangle or diamond on the face of the meter. If it is turning, that means that water is going through the meter and into the house.

Remember – humidifiers, refrigerator units (icemakers), toilets and all water softeners use water. If these items are in use, water will pass through your meter.

Toilets are the most common sources of leaks, although they are easy to detect. Place a toilet tablet or a few drops of food coloring in the tank, but don't flush. After a few minutes, if coloring appears in the bowl, your toilet is indeed leaking water. Usually all that is needed is a replacement flapper valve, which is the soft rubber flapper in the tank. Water corrodes these flappers over time and it is recommended that they be replaced every two years. The adjustment screw at the back of the toilet may also need to be corrected to stop water from going into the overflow tube.

Other common causes for leaks are:

• Sprinkler Systems – Check for soggy areas of the yard and sprinkler heads and valves.

• Water Heaters – Check for standing water around your water heater.

• Icemakers – Be sure it is still connected properly and is not dripping water anywhere.

• Faucets – Dripping faucets can cause substantial water loss every month.