

How to Detect Water Leaks

Inside the home:

Check the toilets for leaks. Drop a few drops of food coloring into the tank. Wait a few minutes. If color shows up in the bowl, the flapper is leaking and needs to be replaced. This can occur even with new toilets and flappers. Sometimes toilets “run.” This is caused by a faulty flushing mechanism and it needs to be replaced.

Check all faucets to see that they don't drip.

Check any exposed pipes for leaks.

Outside the home:

Walk around the house and yard to see if there is a very green spot or any wet spots. However, some of Coon Rapids has porous, permeable gravel and sand beneath the surface. A leak in your yard may not be evident since the water from the leak may seep down through this layer, rather than collect on the surface.

Check your sprinkler system. Broken heads only leak when the system is operating. Usually a broken head does not add very many gallons to the water usage, unless the sprinkler system is on. A broken pipe on the other hand, can leak when the system is on or off and will add many more gallons to the usage. Swimming pools and hot tubs with automatic filters can also malfunction.

If you suspect a leak, check your meter:

The best place to detect a leak is at the water meter. While no water is being used, observe the meter's leak indicator or dial hand and note its movement over the span of 10 to 30 minutes, if the leak indicator or dial hand has not moved, there usually is no leak.