

IT CAME FROM INSIDE THE HOUSE!

What to know about fixing indoor water leaks

Giant puddles on the floor or damp carpets are obvious signs something in a house may be leaking.

But what about other, not-so-obvious leaks that can waste thousands of gallons of water each day?

Whether hidden or obvious, these leaks can be pricey. Here's how to spot and fix issues before they add up.

FIND YOUR SHUT-OFF VALVE

The main shut-off valve controls all water coming into a building. In case of an emergency such as a burst pipe, fast action could prevent costly damage from flooding.

Normally, the shut-off valve is near the water meter. If the meter is outside the house, find the place where the water service line enters the building. The shut-off valve is likely to be close by. Common locations are in the basement, under the kitchen sink, near the meter box or at the pressure regulator. After finding the valve, turn it to make sure it isn't stuck. Water valves are generally closed by turning the handle clockwise. If a valve does not turn easily, do not force it or it might break. When opening the valve to turn the water back on, open it fully, then close it a quarter of a turn. Check valves periodically and consider operating the main and individual valves annually.



LEAKY TOILETS

Toilet leaks are often caused by worn or damaged parts in the toilet flush tank. Often, water will empty directly into the sewer line without a trace. Common causes include:



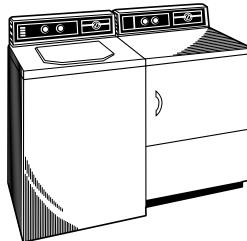
Float Arm Problems: Remove the lid from the top of the flush tank to ensure the overflow pipe and plunger ball are working properly. Flush the toilet and listen for the water flow shut off. If water does not shut off, check the water level. Consider replacing the plunger ball if the water level is slightly below the top of the overflow pipe and water is still flowing.

Pinhole: A pinhole opening below the overflow pipe's water line could produce an invisible leak. Check by shining a flashlight into the overflow pipe to look for running water.

Defective Plunger Ball: Check for a worn plunger ball by dropping dye-tracing tablets or food coloring into the toilet tank. If a leak exists, the dye will seep into the bowl in about five minutes.

LEAKY FAUCETS

Try closing the faucet tightly. If it continues to drip, the most likely cause is a worn or wrong-size seat washer. Consider replacing the washer or rebuild or replace the faucet. Close the fixture's shut-off valve, likely found under the sink. Be certain the replacement washer is the correct size.



OTHER LEAK POSSIBILITIES

- Water Heater Tanks
- Boilers
- Water Softeners
- Washing Machines
- Humidifiers
- Fire Suppression Systems
- Dishwashers
- Refrigerator Ice Maker
- Bathtubs/Shower

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