

IRREGULAR WATER USAGE NOTIFICATION (Intermittent Leak)

TOILETS

A common reason why toilets will leak is because of an old or worn-out toilet flapper (e.g., valve seal). Flappers are inexpensive rubber parts that can decay over time. Replacing them can be a quick and easy fix for your water woes. Identify toilet leaks by placing a couple drops of food coloring in the toilet tank or stop by customer service to pick up free dye tablets. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.) To fix this leak, consult your local hardware store, home improvement retailer, or licensed plumber.

Tip: Bring the old flapper to the hardware store for comparison to make sure you buy a new flapper that fits your toilet model.

FAUCETS

Old and worn faucet washers and gaskets frequently cause leaks in faucets. Many tutorials are available online for how to fix a wide variety of faucets. To fix this leak, consult your local hardware store, home improvement retailer, or licensed plumber.

Tip: Don't forget to turn off the water line before you start!

SHOWERHEADS

Some leaky showerheads can be fixed by making sure there is a tight connection between the showerhead and the pipe stem and by using pipe tape to secure it. Pipe tape, also called Teflon tape, is available at most hardware stores, is easy to apply, and can help tame unruly leaks. For more complicated valve leaks in showers that drip when not in use, contact an experienced handyman or licensed plumber.

Tip: It's also a good idea to check and, if needed, replace the washer or "o" ring inside the showerhead while making this repair.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM

If you have an irrigation system, check it routinely to ensure it is working properly and wasn't damaged by lawn maintenance equipment. If you notice irrigation heads or drip emitters constantly discharging water a solenoid valve may not be closing properly. Typically, you will notice a deep yellow ring around the irrigation heads in turf grass.

Tip: When repairing irrigation systems replace components with water conservative fixtures to save water and money. To ensure you are not over watering use a rain gauge (Free at Customer Service) to determine how much you are applying during an irrigation cycle.

WATER SOFTENERS

Most water softeners perform backwash cycles automatically to regenerate the exchange media. The backwash system can fail in the open position or backwash more frequently than needed causing excessive water use. Visually inspect the system while performing a backwash cycle to ensure proper operation.

Tip: With all mechanical equipment routine preventative maintenance is required to ensure proper continued operation. Consult your local hardware store, home improvement retailer, or licensed plumber for maintenance recommendations.

WATER HOSE

Finally, check your garden hose for leaks at its connection to the spigot. If it leaks while you run your hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.

Tip: Don't forget to shut off your water hose when done using.