



# FIND A LEAK OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

Leaks can occur in many different places around the house and are sometimes hard to find. You can fix some of those problems yourself, but if you don't feel confident in doing so, you can always call a plumber. Make sure your plumber is certified for the job. To check their credentials go to: [TSBPE.TEXAS.GOV](http://TSBPE.TEXAS.GOV)

## TIPS :

- Turn off all faucets and water consuming appliances in your house. Find your water meter and write down the numbers shown on the dial. Wait 20 minutes, if those numbers have changed, you may have a leak.
- If you have to shut off the water, make sure it's completely off, check by turning on a faucet. The water should stop running after a few seconds.

## FINDING THE LEAK :

- Walk around your house and look for any leaking pipes or water damage. If all water consuming appliances are turned off, no water should be moving through the pipes. Listen for sounds of running water. If you hear water moving, track that pipe.
- If you plan to fix that leak, make sure to turn the cutoff valve before any repairs. The cutoff valve is usually located where the service line enters the home.
- Look for pipes leaking under sinks, in walls and ceilings. Wet spots, stained carpet, and mold is another indicator of a leak.
- If a faucet is leaking, changing the washer in the spout may help stop the leak.
- Check your water heater. The pressure relief valve allows the hot water heater to drain water if the pressure becomes too great. Many times this valve is directly connected to a drain making it difficult to see the problem. Without touching the pressure relief valve, listen for water flowing through any connected hoses or look at the end of the hose for running water. **These repairs should be performed by a hot water heater specialist.**
- When checking a toilet for leaks. Take the cover off the tank, watch for obvious signs of leakage. If water is flowing into the overflow tube, adjust the height of the float. If water is dripping out of the fill valve you may need to tighten a screw or replace it.
- To check for a silent leak, place several drops of food coloring or leak detection tablets in the tank. Without flushing, wait for 20 minutes. If you see color in the bowl there is a leak.

## TOILET LEAKS FACT :

- An average of 20% of all toilets leak! A leaking toilet can waste up to several hundreds of gallons per day. Leaky toilets can usually be repaired by replacing the flapper. The use of food coloring or leak detection tablets can be a good start to find the leak.