

DIY Water leak detection

This test is best done overnight for accurate results but can be performed if you are away from home for a couple of hours. If you are running the test at night, remember to make sure you are done using water for the evening, this includes tasks like flushing toilets, face washing, brushing teeth and filling a glass for drinking water. If, however you are unable to do this test at night, it can be done while you are away from home for a couple of hours. Once you are ready it will be time to start your very own water leak test.

Follow these steps below.

1. Turn off devices like evaporative coolers and ice makers (sometimes build into freezers) that are automated to use water.
2. Write down your water meter reading and the time of day, to the minute.
3. Do not use any water from this point on. No toilet flushing or hand washing.
4. Once you wake up, before you flush the loo(toilet) or start using water again, write down the new water meter reading and the time of day, once again to the minute.
5. If the two reading are different you most probably have a leak. Subtract the first reading from the second, this discrepancy between the two readings give you the number of liters that passed through the meter during that period.
6. Work out how long the test was in minutes. (If you went to bed at 10.37pm and woke up at 6.12am, then the test was 7 hours and 35 minutes long, that is 455 minutes long.)
7. Divide the amount of water by the number of minutes in the test. This will give you the amount of water wasted per minute. Now when you multiply that by 1440 it gives you the amount of water wasted every day. Very soon and very quickly this all adds up to an expensive water bill.

This can be done during the day should you not want to do it at night. Do not use water for half an hour and then go to the meter and check if the white and red dials are registering usage.

A dripping tap typically wastes about 1 litre and hour, That's about 8760 litres a year. A leaking toilet can waste up to 34 litres an hour or 300000 litres a year.



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