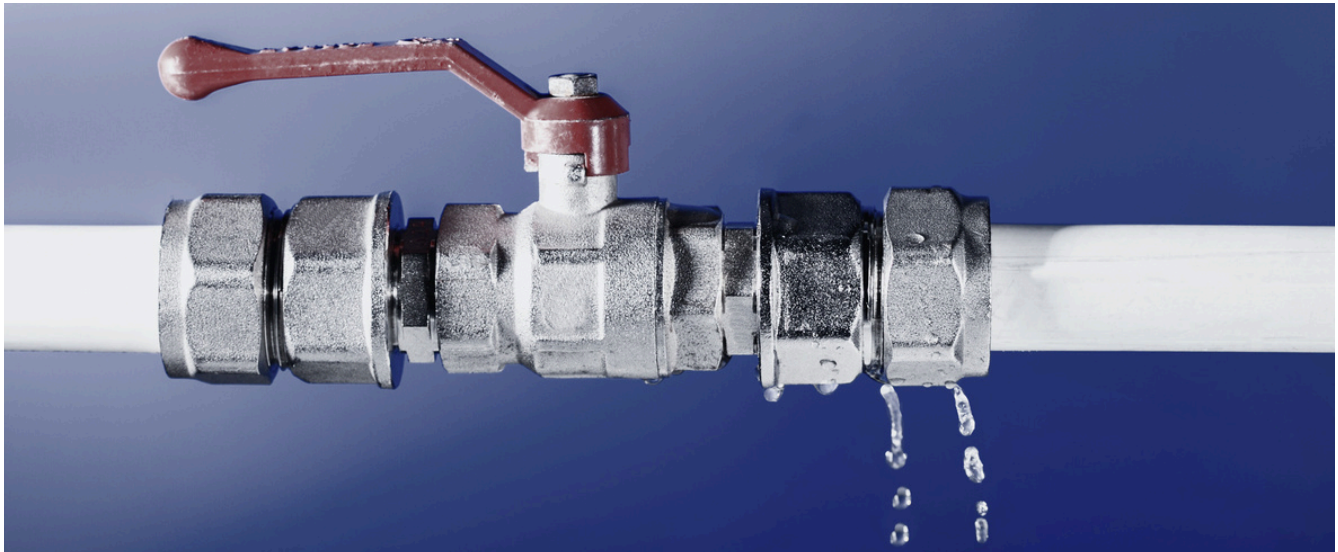




# Think You Might Have a Leak?

Here's How to Check:



**1** Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances. Then read your meter to note any signs of a leak. (See our “How to Find and Check Your Water Meter” leaflet)

**2** **Determine if you have a whole-house valve and shut it off.** Look in your garage, utility room, crawl space, or basement. Turn it clockwise as far as it will go. Then recheck your meter. Is flow still occurring?

**Determine if you have an irrigation system valve and shut it off.** Then recheck your meter. Is flow still occurring?

### Water flow? Yes or No?

- If no water flow is reading across the meter once you have turned off the valve, a leak is most likely in the house or irrigation system.
- If water flow continues after turning off the valves, there is likely a leak between the meter and those valves.

### **3** Check Possible Leaky Locations Around the House

If water stops across the meter when the house valve is off, the leak is likely in or around the house. Here are some common and easy locations to check:

#### Inside the Home

- Toilets - usually the #1 problem
- Refrigerator ice maker lines
- Exposed pipes in your crawl space or basement
- Hot water heater
- Damp or moldy spots on a wall or floor

#### Outside the Home

- In-ground irrigation system control boxes
- Ponds or fountains
- In-ground water shut-off valves
- Outdoor faucets
- Wet ground, or lush, healthy grass in otherwise brown lawn

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### Still Can't Find a Leak?

If after checking possible leaky locations you still cannot find the leak, a buried supply pipe may be the culprit.

Finding leaks in supply pipes can be tricky. Generally, they are buried between one and five feet down. Often, they run straight from the meter to the house.

Leaks often occur where a supply pipe is attached to the water meter, an irrigation line, or your house plumbing.

You can dig to look for leaks. If you do, please call 811 at least two days before digging so utilities companies can come check your area for underground lines.

### Getting a Leak Fixed

Even a tiny leak wastes a lot of water and money. Consider the costs and what you will do.

If you choose to fix a leak or replace a supply pipe, you could do the work yourself. Many helpful books and internet resources are available.

You also could hire a plumber. We can't recommend specific plumbers, but we do suggest calling and questioning several. Ask how they'd go about investigating and fixing any problem. Ask how they'd determine what to charge you. Request references. You also could ask people you know and trust if they can recommend a good plumber.

### We are here to help

We aren't plumbers and cannot pinpoint or fix your leaks. However, we can offer suggestions. Contact us if you need to shut off your water for plumbing repairs at your meter. We'll return to restore service when the work is done.

### Remember

Do NOT turn off water at the water meter. If you need to turn off water at the meter, call Utility Operations for assistance at (360) 754-4150, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

City of Tumwater  
Water Resources & Sustainability  
Operations Department  
(360) 754-4150

For billing questions, please  
contact Utility Billing at  
(360) 754-4133  
[utilitybilling@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:utilitybilling@ci.tumwater.wa.us)