

Household Leak Tips

FAUCETS

Most faucets leaks are caused by worn washers, or "O" rings in washerless faucets. Faucets throughout your home should be inspected periodically, with special attention to the less used faucets in basements and garages. Repairing faucets leaks is an easy job for most do-it-yourselfer's. If your not sure of how to do the job you should contact your plumber to avoid making a small job an even bigger one.

A helpful hint on faucets.....Turn off your outside faucets when you plan an extended vacation to avoid unauthorized persons from turning them on.

TOILETS

The toilet is one of the most common causes of unexplained increases in water usage, since most are not as noticeable as faucet leaks. To determine if your toilet is leaking, look at the bowl after the tank has stopped filling. If you still see water running into the bowl, or if you still hear water running, it's a good bet you have a toilet leak.

Most toilets leak at one of two places in your toilet tank:

- 1) The overflow pipe
- 2) The plunger ball or flapper in the bottom of the toilet tank

To determine where your toilet is leaking, check the following thing the next time you flush your toilet. The water level in the toilet tank should come to about " below the top of the overflow pipe. If this is not where the water level stops, adjust the float level control until it is corrected. If the control valve itself is bad, you may need to call a plumber to replace it.

Even if you don't hear or see water running, your toilet may have a "Silent Leak". To test for a silent leak, put a few drops of food coloring into the tank. DO NOT FLUSH. Wait for about 10 minutes. If the coloring appears in the bowl, without flushing, you have a silent leak. This is usually cause by a worn plunger ball or flapper valve in the bottom of the toilet tank. If you are not sure how to repair this type of leak you should call a plumber to avoid any further problems or before the leak gets worse.

