

Be a Leak Detector



A High Bill Usually Means a Leak

Did you know that approximately 50 percent of all households have some kind of plumbing leak? Most of these leaks are due to worn out washers, flappers or faulty tank valves, which can result in hundreds or thousands of gallons of water wasted needlessly. Not only is this a waste of natural resources, but it also registers through the meter, which could affect your water bill.

Where to start

If you receive a high bill, or think you may have a leak in or around your property, a good place to start is at the water meter. Typically the water meter is located in the basement or crawl space. Remember to bring a flashlight with you and also have some paper and a pencil handy. Dirt or dust may need to be removed to expose the meter dial. The meter face will look very similar to this one.



Follow these steps to Determine if the Meter Has Been Misread...

1. To determine if the meter has been misread, simply copy down the numbers on the dial (from left to right) on the meters gallon register.
2. Compare the numbers on the gallon register to the numbers indicated as "Current Reading" on your utility bill. The reading from the gallons register should be equal or higher than the "Current Reading."

3. If the reading is lower than the reading indicated on your bill, the meter may have been misread. Please call the Village of Lemont Water Billing Department at (630) 257-6277, for a re-read and corrected bill.
4. If the meter reading is substantially higher than the reading on your bill there may be a leak.

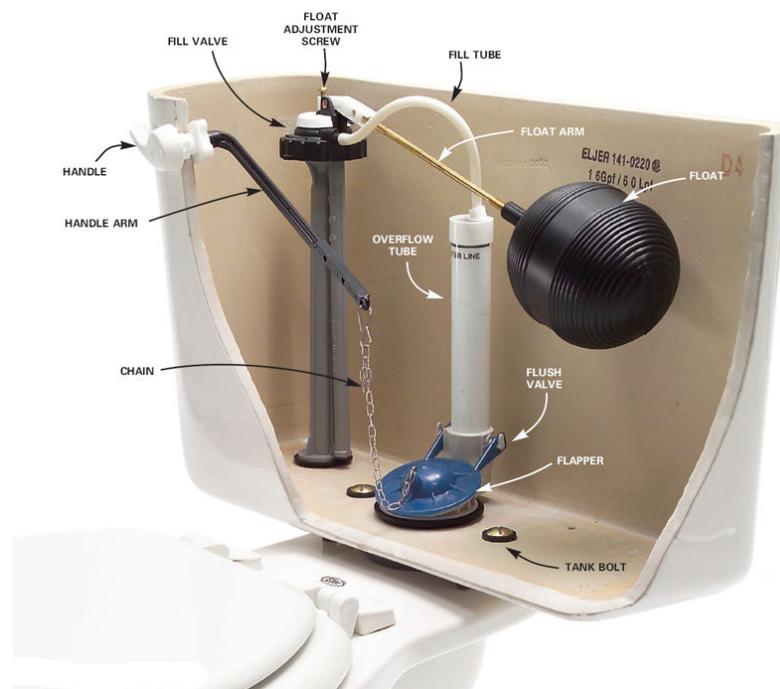
Follow These Steps to Determine if There May Be a Leak...

Most meter faces have a flow indicator (small in size, red or black in color, triangle in shape). If there is no water being used at the time of the inspection, and the flow indicator is moving or spinning, this is a good indication that there may be a leak in or around your house. Not all leaks are big and clearly noticeable. If the meter flow indicator is not moving, continue with these steps to further evaluate the situation.

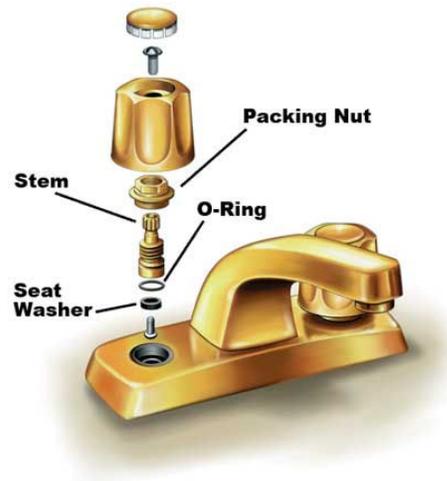
1. Copy down the numbers (from left to right) on the meter's gallons register and note where the dial is located. Do not use any water for a period of 2 hours. Take another reading from your meter's gallons register and note where the dial is, after the 2 hour testing period, and compare it to the first reading. If the reading is higher or the dial has moved, there may be a leak.

Pinpointing the possible leak...

2. To help pinpoint the possible location of the leak as inside or outside the home, close the leading to the outside spigots, if the flow indicator continues to move than the leak may be inside the dwelling, if it stops the leak may be outside.
3. If the leak is inside be sure to check the toilets for possible leaks as they are usually where the leak can be found.



- Another common source for leaks is the faucet. Whether in the kitchen, bathtub or shower, a leaky faucet can waste more than 20 gallons of water a day.



Leak Chart @ 60 P.S.I.

- . 1/32" leak can waste 73,992 gallons per year
- . 1/16" leak can waste295,992 gallons per year
- . 1/8" leak can waste1,183,992 gallons per year
- . 1/4" leak can waste4,725,996 gallons per year

Some Interesting Facts and Statistics

The typical family uses about 70% of their water in the bathroom. This is partly because water is used at a faster "flow rate" in the bathroom than in any other parts of the home. Toilets and showers have a flow rate of 5-7 gallons per minute; dishwashers and clothes washer use less than 3 gallons per minute

- Toilet 5 to 7 gallons per flush (Non low-flow)
- Shower 5 to 7 gallons per minute (Non low-flow)
- Bathtub 36 to 60 gallons per bath
- Dishwasher 10 to 25 gallons per cycle
- Washing machine .20 to 45 gallons per load