

INDOOR LEAKS



Did you know?

Most homeowners in Greeley who experience leaks can find leaks themselves following this checklist. In just minutes, you can track down leaks and fix them. Many common household leaks are quick to find and easy to fix. Worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and leaking showerheads are all easily correctable and can save on your utility bill and in your community. So, gather your tools and take this 15-20-minute challenge to detect and chase down leaks.

Tools:

Flashlight • Wrench • Food Coloring (dye tabs) • Teflon/plumbers tape • Pen/paper

CHECKLIST FOR CHASING DOWN LEAKS

Here are some places leaks may be hiding in your home.

Some leaks require a simple fix—a worn flapper, loose pipe connection, or shower head. For other leaks, you may want to consult a licensed plumber—water heater drips or malfunctioning water supply lines or valves. Take a quick inventory of places of water waste, and you can save time and money on a professional's visit.

In the Bathroom:

- Toilets: Conduct the food coloring test described on the inside page.
- Faucets: Look, listen, and feel for drips or flowing water. Check around and under the drain stopper for any residual water.
- In the shower/tub: Look and feel around the drain for any puddling water. Then examine the showerhead and tub faucet for drips.
- Under the sink: Look, listen, and feel for pooling water under pipes, hoses, and valves or rust around joints and edges.

In the Kitchen:

- Faucets: Look, listen, and feel for drips or flowing water. Check around and under the drain stopper for any residual water.
- Under the sink: Look, listen, and feel for pooling water under pipes, hoses, and valves or rust around joints and edges.
- Appliances: Look and feel for pooling water underneath dishwashers and refrigerators with ice makers, which could indicate a supply line or internal refrigerator hose leak.

In the Laundry:

- Under the sink: Look, listen, and feel for pooling water under pipes, hoses, and valves or rust around joints and edges.
- Clothes washer: Examine the water supply valves for any drips; these leaks may be draining to the drain hose line. Check behind and under the washer for pooling water.

In the Basement or Utility Room:

- Utility room drain: Look for any water flowing into the utility room drain. This may be normal use from the home humidifier, but it can also indicate a water heater leak, malfunctioning water softening/filtration system, or another plumbing issue.
- Water heater: Check beneath the tank from top to bottom for pooling water, rust, or other signs of a leak. Use this simple test-- lay a paper towel over a test area and check within an hour or two if see if it's damp.
- Furnace/Humidifier: If you have a whole house humidifier, it should only run while the furnace runs. If you notice continuous flow into the drain while the furnace is not running, the humidifier may be malfunctioning.
- Water supply line into the house or shut-off valve: Look and feel around this valve for a leak. If it is not already, mark the valve with a tag or paint it a bright color to easily find in the event you need to shut off your household water.

Other Places to Look:

- Hot tubs, pools and spas: Make sure the automatic floats are operating correctly and look, listen and feel for drips.
- Outdoor spigots: Look and feel for any wetness around spigots. Shut off fully by turning the handle all the way to the right.
- Throughout the house check for signs of moisture or mold on your walls, ceiling, or floors. This can indicate that a pipe is leaking behind the walls or under the floor, and it might require the attention of a professional.

FIND AND FIX INDOOR LEAKS

A sudden spike in your water bill is a classic sign of a potential water leak, which can lead to costly damages to your property. First, register for WaterSmart at greeley.watersmart.com. Here, you can track water use trends, sign-up for leak alerts via e-mail or text, and access leak tutorials. The level of water use details available in WaterSmart will vary by meter type. Older water meters will show monthly uses, and newer meters will allow you to see hourly water use.

1. Understand your water bill.

Greeley uses a water budget to help customers know if they are using too much water. The indoor portion of your water budget is based on the number of people living in the home full time. The outside portion of your water budget is based on weather and the size of your property that could be landscaped. If you don't get a paper water bill, you can access yours in your WaterSmart portal.

2. Review your water use online.

New water meter owners can easily monitor their water use at greeley.watersmart.com. These meters are tied to WaterSmart technology to detect leaks within 72 hours, and registered users receive an automated e-mail or text message alert. *A leak will show up as orange as shown below.* For older water meters, leak alerts are noted on your water bill or may be identified on WaterSmart as a dramatic increase in usage over the previous month.



3. Take the toilet test.

The most likely indoor leak culprit is the toilet and is often referred to as the silent leak because it is easy to remain undetected. Put about 10 drops of food coloring (or use dye tabs) in the toilet tank and let it sit for at least 10-15 minutes. If color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. Usually, a torn or worn flapper is the culprit.

Visit epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week for videos on how to replace the flapper.



Online Resources

Greeley.WaterSmart.com
Epa.gov/watersmart
Greeleygov.com/conserve

Contact

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