CHECK FOR LEAKS AT HOME.

Even a small leak can become expensive if not caught in time.

WATER CONSERVATION AND LEAK CHECK Pocket Guide

Visit bcvwd.org to learn more.

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CHECK FOR LEAKS AT HOME

- Check water heaters, dishwashers and refrigerators for condensation or puddling, which can signal a leak.
- Make sure your sink, tub and shower faucets aren’t dripping.
- Look for wet, soggy grass or puddles that keep forming in the same areas outside.
- Closely check your water bill. An unusual increase in water usage on your bill can indicate a leak. Keep in mind that seasonal changes to your bill are normal.

Test your toilet

Spot leaks in your toilets using these simple tests.

- Add a few drops of food coloring to your upper toilet tank. Wait 15 minutes (do not flush). If color appears in your toilet bowl, you have a leak.
- If your toilet runs after flushing or you wiggle the handle to make it stop, try replacing the flapper valve. If it still runs, replace the flush level bar or the handle. If it still runs after that, you may have a leak.

Read your meter

Because not all leaks are visible. Checking your meter can reveal you have a leak.

- Turn off all the water inside and outside your home. Make sure no water is running.
- Check the red sweep hand on your meter.
- Wait 15 minutes and check it again.
- If the hand has moved, you may have a leak.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE CONDITION OF your pipes, hoses and indoor appliances to spot and fix leaks before they get worse.

- Test your toilet
- Read your meter

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INSIDE YOUR HOME

Kitchen
- Run the dishwasher only when full.
- Use the garbage disposal only when necessary.
- Thaw frozen food in the refrigerator instead of under running water.

Bathroom
- Take shorter showers.
- Install a low-flow showerhead.
- Turn off the water when brushing, shampooing or shaving.

Laundry
- Wash clothes only with full loads.
- Buy a washing machine that adjusts the water level to the size of your load.

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

Keep your sprinklers and hoses working efficiently!
- Adjust nozzle direction and reduce overspray to avoid watering sidewalks.
- Clear clogs in sprinkler heads for better flow.
- Adjust pressure as necessary to encourage proper water distribution.
- Use an auto shut-off spray nozzle on your hose.

Stay weather-wise!
- Take advantage of the weather and local climate to reduce water use.
  - Water in the early morning or late at night to reduce evaporation.
  - Turn off sprinklers when it rains, is windy or cloudy.
  - Use native or drought tolerant plants for landscaping.
  - Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.

More ways to save outside:
- Clean your driveway and sidewalks with a broom instead of a hose.
- Kids love playing with water - position sprinklers in areas where your lawn needs it most.
- Use a commercial car wash that recycles water or wash your car on the lawn where it needs watering. Use a bucket of water instead of running water.

READY TO KEEP SAVING?
Visit bcvwd.org/water-conservation for more detailed tips.