

## Finding and Fixing Outdoor Leaks



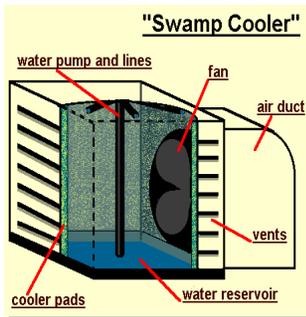
If a hose bib or outdoor faucet leaks, and a good hand-tightening won't fix it, replace the old washer. Look for wet spots in the landscape to help locate broken pipes and leaky or broken sprinkler heads.

Buy replacement parts and fix them. Inspect water lines, sprinklers, emitters, and other components for possible leaks every month. Install a shut-off nozzle on your hose. Plant Native in your garden and limit turf areas. Installing a drip system is efficient and directs the water exactly where it is needed. Spraying or using a sprinkler system, throws the water out into the air where it is quickly evaporated. Be sure to check irrigation timers on a monthly basis to reset for the season and ensure efficient operation. Ask for Water Smart outdoor plant and landscaping information.

 Water Smart

## Don't Forget Your Evaporative Cooler

A leaking evaporative cooler isn't cool. Evaporative coolers ("swamp coolers") can efficiently cool an Arizona home, but a leaky cooler wastes a tremendous amount of water. Make sure the water level in the



water pan is below the top of the overflow pipe. If the level is too high, bend the float valve arm downward (similar to adjusting the float ball in toilet tank). Also check the water lines leading to the cooler for leaks. Tighten loose connections.

# APPLY TODAY ...

## 2006-2007 WATER CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**Identify and repair indoor and/or outdoor leaks and receive up to a \$50 Utility Bill Credit**  
*(program rules apply)*

Applications are available on the Web, at City Hall, at Public Works or mailed to you upon request.

### Call: 777-1130



### Public Works

433 N. Virginia, P.O. Box 2059  
Prescott, AZ 86302  
Phone: 928-777-1130  
Fax: 928-771-5929

E-mail address:

[water.smart@cityofprescott.net](mailto:water.smart@cityofprescott.net)

Web address:

[www.cityofprescott.net](http://www.cityofprescott.net)

### CITYLINE: 777-CITY

Leave a message requesting information be sent on water conservation incentives program or "Water Smart" outdoor water use program .

# Water Smart™



A  
A  
guide  
to  
finding  
and  
fixing...  
fixing...



## Water Leaks Water Leaks

## How to Read Your Water Meter



### DO YOU HAVE A WATER LEAK?

Leaky pipes and drips when undetected waste thousands of gallons of water and result in higher monthly water bills. Dripping faucets and running toilets are pretty easy to detect. Underground leaks are invisible but can literally wash away the structural integrity of your home. Read your water meter to find out if you have a "hidden" water leak.

### 5 steps to detecting a water leak

1. Locate your water meter.
2. Turn off all indoor and outdoor water-using devices including the evaporative cooler, water softeners and icemaker.
3. Record the read from your water meter.
4. Wait 30 minutes read and record the meter again.
5. If you have a different reading, you have a leak!

## The Faucet and Showerhead



### REPLACE OLD AND WORN OUT WASHERS

Dripping faucets are not only a nuisance, they are a waste of precious water. Likely, the problem is a worn washer. Standard stem faucets with separate handles for hot and cold water use flat washers with a hole in the middle for a washer screw. Replacing the washer is easy and requires the use of a wrench, screwdriver and a **new washer**.

### Does your shower head drip?

Even a low-flow showerhead can waste water if it drips. A leaky showerhead might be caused by an old washer in the faucet handle. Replace worn washer. Plumbing and hardware stores sell replacement parts. Call and contract with a licensed plumber when you need help on difficult plumbing projects.



*Do you have a low-flow 2.4 g.p.m shower head?*

*Don't forget to check the connections on your hot water tank.*



### Faucet Drips

60 drops per minute =  
192 gallons per month =  
**2,304 gallons per year**

90 drops per minute =  
310 gallons per month =  
**3,720 gallons per year**

120 drops per minute =  
429 gallons per month =  
**5,148 gallons per year**

## The Toilet

### CHECK YOUR TOILETS FOR LEAKS.

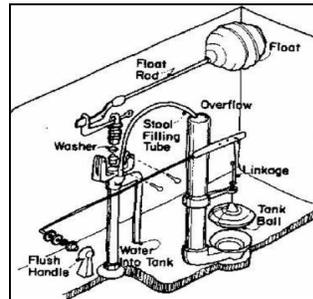
If your water meter test indicates a possible leak, begin your search with the toilet.

A leaking toilet can waste thousands of gallons of water. To check yours, put 10-15 drops of food dye into the tank. After 5-10 minutes, check the bowl for color. If there is color in your bowl, your toilet is leaking. The most likely culprit...the "flapper".



### The Flapper (tank ball)

The flapper is what keeps water in the tank from flowing into the bowl. Make sure the flapper fits properly on the valve seat. It should fall straight onto the valve seat. A "worn" flapper won't seal properly either. To replace the flapper, turn off the valve and flush the toilet to drain the tank. Clean the seal and follow the instruction that came with the new flapper. Now run the dye test again. Approximately 90% of the leaks found are due to the toilet flapper. Tablet-type cleaning products placed in tank can shorten the life of the flapper considerably.



### Leaky Pipes

Some leaks are caused by carelessness. Make sure you give all sink and shower faucets a good tight turn to make sure they are completely off. Often, pipe leaks occur at the fittings. Look for leaks at pipe connection points for all of your household water-use appliances.



### FIND LEAKY PIPES INDOORS AND OUT

Size of Opening	Gallons wasted per month:	Gallons waste per year:
1/32"	6,300	75,600
1/16"	25,000	300,000
1/8"	100,000	1.2 million
3/16"	225,000	2.7 million
1/4"	400,000	4.8 million

(at 60 lbs. of water pressure)

(Source: California Urban Water Conservation Council)