

# Leak Detection and Repair

## Facts

Studies show that dripping faucets and leaking toilets account for as much as 14% of all indoor water use, equivalent to 10 gallons (38 liters) per person of water lost per day.

## Tips

### **Read Your Water Meter**

- Use your water meter to check for leaks in your home. Start by turning off all faucets and water-using appliances and make sure no one uses water during the testing period.
- Take a reading on your water meter, wait for about 30 minutes, then take a second reading. If the dial has moved, you have a leak.

### **Check for Leaky Toilets**

- The most common source of leaks is the toilet. Check toilets for leaks by placing a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If after 15 minutes the dye shows up in the bowl, the toilet has a leak.
- Leaky toilets can usually be repaired inexpensively by replacing the inside components (such as flappers).

### **Check for Leaky Faucets**

- The next place to check for leaks is your sink and bathtub faucets. Dripping faucets can usually be repaired by replacing the rubber O-ring or washer inside the valve.

### **Irrigation**

- As much as 30% of water can be lost to evaporation by watering the lawn during midday.
- Homes with in-ground sprinkler systems use 35% more water outdoors than those who do not have an in-ground system. One reason may be that system controllers are not adjusted according to seasonal irrigation needs.