

Fixing leaks is an easy way to conserve water and is one of the first steps to reducing water waste.

While it may seem like leaks are insignificant, those small drops can lead to a lot of wasted water. A leaking toilet can waste over 19 L a minute while a leaking faucet can use between 280 to 750 litres a week.

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation estimates that an average home can save 40% of the water used by repairing leaks and replacing or retrofitting inefficient appliances such as toilets.

Most leaks can be easily repaired with household tools and replacement parts are available in most hardware stores.

**Remember, conservation begins at home.**

## Helpful Websites

For more information about fixing toilet leaks visit the Team WaterSmart website at [www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wplD=1462](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wplD=1462)

For helpful tips on removing, replacing, or purchasing showerheads visit [www.sleekhome.com/articles/v/1430/](http://www.sleekhome.com/articles/v/1430/)

For information on how to identify faucet types and how to repair specific faucets, visit: [about.com home repairs at www.homerepair.about.com/od/plumbing-repair/ss/faucet\\_types.htm](http://about.com/home-repairs-at/www.homerepair.about.com/od/plumbing-repair/ss/faucet_types.htm)

For more information on identifying leaks, visit the Regional District of Nanaimo's website at [www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wplD=869](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wplD=869)



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*Town of Qualicum Beach*

## Identifying Leaks



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# Identifying Leaks

## The Basic Information

Identifying and fixing leaks is easy and will save you money.

### Check your Meter

The easiest way to identify leaks is to read your meter. Before you go to bed, write down the number on your meter. When you wake up, before you use any water, read the number again. If the number has changed - you have a leak.

### Find your Meter

Your water meter is located near the curb of your property, possibly under a plastic lid. In the Town of Qualicum Beach, water meters are locked to prevent damage. For a \$10 fee, Town staff will come to your home and read your meter.

# Finding Leaks

## An Appliance Search

### Toilet

The most common cause of unidentified leaks in the home is the toilet. Often silent, leaking toilets can waste a huge amount of water every month. To check if your toilet is leaking, add some food colouring to the tank and wait ten minutes. If the water in the bowl changes colour - you have a leak.



### Faucet

Worn O-rings and washers often cause faucets to leak or drip. While it seems insignificant, 1 drip per second can fill 192 bathtubs in a year. You will be able to see or hear most dripping faucets. Replacement parts are available at hardware stores.

### Irrigation System

If you have an underground irrigation system, you may want to check if it is leaking. Walk around irrigated areas, if a patch is constantly wet, you may have a leaking pipe. Reading your meter is also a great way to see how much water your irrigation system actually uses. Check the meter, turn on your irrigation system, and then check the number when it is finished. Subtract the second number from the first to find how many cubic meters of water per minute your irrigation system is actually using.

### Showerheads

Leaking showerheads are also easy to spot visually. In some cases the leak will only be noticeable during the shower when some sprays are misdirected. This is wasting water and can easily be fixed by cleaning out the showerhead.

### Ice Maker

If you cannot find a leak and the change in your meter is very low, the water could be being used by your automated ice maker. Some ice makers turn on at night. This is not a leak.

### Other

If you still have not identified the leak, try systematically shutting off water to areas of your home and rechecking the meter. When the numbers stop increasing, you have found the area of your leak, possibly in the piping. You may have to call a professional to solve the problem.



# Repairs

### Replacement Parts

If you find a leak and the repairs require new parts, remember to take the worn parts with you to the hardware store to insure that you find a correct match.

### Avoid Scratching

You can prevent scratches on metal surfaces such as showerheads or faucets by covering your pliers or wrench with masking tape.

Fixing leaky toilets is easy.  
for more information visit:  
[www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=1462](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=1462)