

Conserve Your Dollars – Conserve Water

Faucet and toilet leaks can result in substantial water loss over the course of a year. A single 1/16 inch diameter stream over a three month period will waste 74,000 gallons of water. That would be over \$150/month! To keep our customers from accruing those types of fees, we suggest the following checks are performed periodically.

DYE TEST – TO TEST FOR A TOILET LEAK

1. Carefully remove tank cover/lid and set aside where it cannot drop or be stepped on. Drop food coloring or dye tablets (even a small amount of strong, brewed coffee!) into the tank. **DO NOT FLUSH! Wait 30 minutes.** If you see colored water in your toilet bowl, your tank is leaking.
2. Check the FLOAT ARM first. Reach in and lift it up. If the water stops running, you've found the problem. Adjust the screws or bolts to the inlet float valve until the water stops flowing.
3. If water continues to run, turn off the water supply valve to the tank. Flush toilet to drain out the water. Examine the inlet float valve by removing the two screws or bolts and lifting the top of the valve housing out. Check the diaphragm. If it is even slightly damaged or worn, replace it.
4. If the toilet continues to run, examine the ball stopper or flapper valve. It should fit flush in its seat. If not, look at the lever and guide rods that operate the ball stopper. If they are crooked, gently straighten them. For toilets having a chain pull attached to the flapper valve, make sure the chain is slack when the valve is seated to insure a snug fit. If the ball or flapper valve itself is worn out, replace it. Check for corrosion or deposits on the seat of the ball stopper or flapper valve. Using steel wool to remove this build-up will allow the stopper to set well in the seat.
5. Inspect the small refill tube that connects the fill valve to the refill-overflow tube to be sure the smaller tube ends slightly above the standing water level of the completely filled tank. If necessary, gently pull the small tube upward until its end is correctly placed.

FAUCET LEAKS

Even an intermittently dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Leaking faucets are usually caused by worn washers or "O" rings. Many homeowners are savvy enough to repair or replace their faucets, however the short-term cost of having a plumber pay a service visit is much less than the long term cost of a leak.