

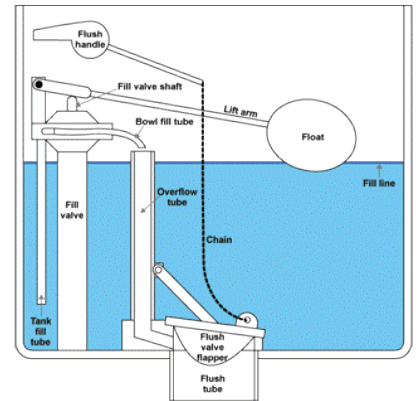
WATER LEAK DETECTION AND PREVENTION

CHECKING YOUR TOILET FOR LEAKS

High volume water leaks often come from toilets. They are hard to detect and are usually caused by worn or misaligned parts.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO CHECK YOUR TOILET FOR LEAKS:

1. Put a small amount of food colouring in the toilet tank.
2. Wait 10 minutes, then check to see if the water in the toilet bowl is coloured. If it is, the toilet flapper could be leaking. This is relatively simple and inexpensive to replace.
3. While the toilet top is removed, look to see if the water level is close to the overflow pipe. The overflow pipe is a plastic pipe with an open end just below the top of the tank.
4. If the water level is close, or overflowing into the pipe, this could be where the water is leaking.
5. If the tank water level is too high, you should adjust the ball valve which controls the amount of water in the toilet tank.



You may wish to contact a qualified tradesperson to help you find and repair any leaks in your toilet.

CONDUCTING A VISUAL WALK THROUGH INSPECTION TO ASSESS LEAKS

Follow these steps to discover if you may have a water leak in your home:

1. Turn off anything using water in your home. This includes the washing machine, dishwasher, and all faucets.
2. Start in the lowest part of your home, usually in the basement or crawlspace. Look for any pooled water and listen for any running water. If everything is shut off in the house, no water should be flowing. If you do hear running water, try to trace the pipe. Make note of the location and call a licensed plumber to confirm the leak and repair it.
3. Walk through the rest of your house. Make note of any dripping pipes under sinks, wet or discoloured carpet, walls or ceilings. These can often indicate leaking pipes or a leaking roof and can lead to structural damage, mold and mildew.
4. Pay special attention to all faucets, in sinks, laundry tubs, baths and showers. Make note of any drips and make sure to repair them promptly. Small leaks like this really add up quickly.
5. Inspect all water-using appliances. Most modern appliances have electronic leak sensors placed under them, and they will alert you as soon as water starts to collect underneath the appliance. Call a qualified appliance repair person to fix any leaks noted.
6. Locate your hot water heater. The pressure relief valve allows the hot water heater to drain water if the pressure becomes too great. However, many times this valve is directly connected to a drain making it difficult to see the problem. Without touching your pressure relief valve, listen for water flowing through any connected hoses or look at the end of the hose for running water. If you have a leak that needs to be repaired speak to a certified hot water heater specialist.
7. Walk outdoors and check any spigots, hoses or lawn irrigation systems for persistent leaks. If you have an underground irrigation system, look for soft or muddy areas that can indicate an underground leak.
8. Examine the ground from the base of the foundation out to the road where your water service line is. Again, look for any soft and muddy areas, or pooled water. This could indicate a leak in the service line. If you suspect a leak in your water line contact a qualified tradesperson.