

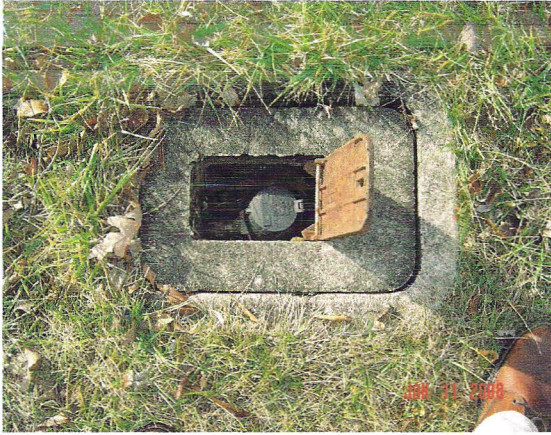
## Steps To Find a Leak

Does your house have a water leak? Here's a way to check your property for a water leak: Turn off all your faucets and taps and make sure the washing machine, dish washer and ice maker are not going along with any other appliance that uses water, such as a humidifier. Then locate the meter box (Figure A) that contains the water meter that serves your property. It is usually in the front yard. (Contact the water office if you need help in locating you water meter 670-2410.) After locating the meter box, lift the small metal lid (Figure B) so that you can see the top of the meter. You may need to lift up the black cover on the top (Figure C) of the meter to see the meter register. On the face of the register is a small red cog that is a leak indicator. When this little red cog is turning, water is going through the meter. If the leak is small the cog will only be turning slightly. Sometimes it is necessary to observe the cog for a few minutes to determine its movement. If a commode is leaking through the flush valve, the leak indicator can start and stop instead of running steady as with a leak in a pipe. **Once you have confirmed the movement of water through the meter with no water being used in the house or any other place, you have a water leak.** Remember that if the leak indicator is starting and stopping it is most likely a commode. The starting and stopping can be several minutes apart and only run for a short time.

The water association encourages you to seek professional help in finding and repairing your leak. However, below we have outlined a possible method of determining the location of your leak for those interested.



**Figure A**



**Figure B**



**Figure C**

\*If there is a cutoff where the main water line from the meter comes into the house, turn this valve off. Then observe the leak indicator on the meter and determine if it is still moving. If the leak indicator or needle is still moving, the leak is between the house and the meter. Check the area where the line is located for a wet spot or a spot of grass that is greener than the rest of the yard. If you have buried drainpipes around the house, check for water running out of them. Check the basement wall near the entry point of the water line for dampness. It is often difficult to find the leak if it is small, although a small leak can run up your water bill substantially. If you cannot find the leak or do not want to make the repair yourself, you should call a plumber for assistance.

\*If the leak indicator stops moving when you close the main valve cutting water off to the house, the leak is in the house plumbing or other lines connected to the house plumbing.



Most leaks in the house are caused by a malfunctioning commode. A commode that is leaking usually makes sounds that you can hear but not always. A sure way to determine if a commode is leaking is to put a dye tablet or several drops of food coloring in the tank in the back of the commode. Then after being sure not to flush the commode for 30 minutes, observe the water in the bowl. If the water is colored, the commode is leaking and needs repair. Dye tablets are available at the water office. Use the dye tablets as directed on the packet.

\*If it is determined that a commode is not leaking, check the plumbing under the house. The entire space should be checked for damp or wet spots. Also, check the area around the hot water heater for dampness or water. A leaking hot water heater can also run up the power bill.

\*If the leak has not been found to this point, check for lines that might be connected to the house plumbing that supply water to outbuildings, garages or barns. If there are several outside lines it may be difficult to determine which line is leaking. If you do not have cutoffs for each line, it may be necessary to install valves. By closing each valve separately you can determine if the leak is in that particular line. If after closing the valve, the leak indicator on the water meter stops moving, the leak is on the line controlled by that valve.

\*Always recheck the meter after a leak is repaired to make sure that you only had one leak. If the leak indicator is still moving, you will need to continue the search.

**Remember, a small leak running continuously can run out a lot of water. We want to be good stewards of this important resource and leaks waste it.**

*[This information is only intended to assist our customers with determining if there is a leak and how to locate it. It is the responsibility of the customer to make the determination of whether or not there is a leak and if so to have it repaired. ]*