

Take the 10-Minute Leak Finding Challenge

Did you know leaks cause homes to lose 10,000 gallons of water on average each year? That's enough water to wash 300 loads of laundry! In just 10 minutes, you can crack down on water waste by using this checklist. Many common household leaks are quick to find and easy to fix.

Start Here



Check your January and February Livermore Municipal Water Bill: A great place to start looking for leaks is on your January and February water bills. Your home likely has a serious leak if its winter water use is more than 4 units for each person in your household. You can also look for spikes – is your water use a lot higher this month than it was last month?



Activate a Vacation Alert on your Love My Water Customer Account: Vacation alerts are helpful for detecting leaks. First, create a Love My Water customer account at www.livermoreca.gov/lovemywater. Next, set your water usage at zero during a time period when your entire household will be out of town. Remember to turn off your irrigation too. If the customer portal sends you a vacation alert, your property is still using water and you may have a leak.



Inside your Home



Toilets: Put a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back of your toilet and let it sit for 10 minutes. If color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak and need to replace your toilet flapper.



Faucets: Listen for drips and tighten aerators or replace fixtures if necessary.



Under Sinks: Check for pooling water under pipes and rust around joints and edges.



Showerheads: Turn on and look for drips or stray sprays that can be stopped with tape.



Bathtubs: Turn on the bathtub faucet and then switch the water to the showerhead. If there is still a lot of water coming out of the bathtub faucet, it could mean the tub spout diverter needs to be replaced.



Appliances: Check for pooling water underneath dishwashers, refrigerators with ice makers, and laundry machines. This could mean you have a supply line leak.

Water Heater: Check beneath the tank for pooling water, rust, or other signs of leakage.

Throughout the House: Check for signs of moisture or mold on your walls, ceilings, and floors. This could indicate that a pipe is wreaking havoc behind the scenes and requires professional attention.



Outside your Home

At the Spigot: Ensure tight connections with the hose and see if the hose washer needs replacing.

Irrigation System: Check each sprinkler head for clogs, obstructions, overspray, tilting, and leaks.

Pools: If your swimming pool is losing more than two inches of water per week, you may have a leak.



Next Steps

Congratulations! You have finished our 10 minute leak finding challenge. Now that you have found all the leaks in your home, here are some tips for repairing them.

Purchase WaterSense Products: If any of your fixtures need to be replaced, remember to look for the WaterSense label. WaterSense labeled products are independently certified to use at least 20% less water while performing just as well as standard models.

Hiring Professionals: If you need to hire a landscaping professional to repair your irrigation system, consider a WaterSense certified landscaper who has been trained in water-efficient irrigation system maintenance. Visit lookforwatersense.epa.gov/pros to find a certified company.

DIY Leak Assistance: Looking for guidance on how to fix simple leaks on your own? Visit our YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/ZeroLeaks> to view short how-to videos.

