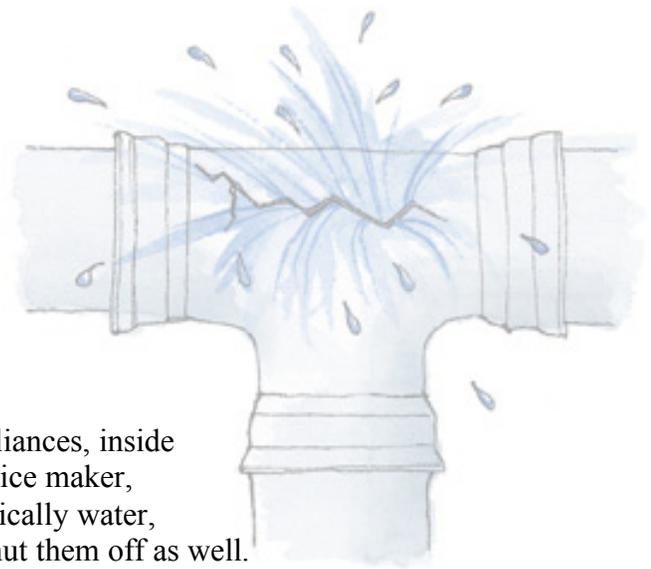


## HOW TO FIND A LEAK

If you suspect a leak inside your home, the easiest way to confirm is to check the reading on your meter by taking the following steps:

First shut off ALL the faucets and water-using appliances, inside and outside your home. Remember, if you have an ice maker, sprinkler system or some other device that automatically water, it will be detected by the water meter. Be sure to shut them off as well.



Next check the reading on your meter. On new homes the water meter is placed in the basement or crawl space, while some of the older homes may have them located outside in a meter pit.

Just like reading the odometer on your car, you read a water meter from left to right. The single gallons are indicated by the red sweep hand. If this is moving at all, your household is using water. Also visually check the small red gear-like dial located to the left of center of the red sweep hand. That dial is a leak detector; therefore if it is turning a leak is occurring.

Without using any water, wait for approximately 30 minutes. Then recheck the meter. If the hand has moved, number has changed, or the leak indicator is turning, water is leaking (*or running*) somewhere on your property.

The most common cause of a small leak is a faucet or toilet. You can get toilet tank leak detector tablets or place a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking. Also, you may hear a toilet tank refill periodically without being flushed.

If your toilets, faucets or water-using appliances are not leaking, there may be an outside leak in the irrigation system. The best way to determine if your irrigation system is leaking is by looking at your lawn. Check around all the heads and connections, often that is where leaks are found. Walk your lot. If you notice wet spots or pooling of water around your spray heads, this is a good indication that your irrigation system has a leak. If you have a layout of your irrigation system, start tracking the lines to determine the exact location. Or call your irrigation contractor to do a system check up. Remember the water usage caused by leaks is the homeowner's responsibility.

### **HOW TO SHUT OFF THE WATER...**

If you need to shut off your water for any reason you will find that most water shut-off valves are located where the main water line enters the home. Most are located in the basement or crawl space and are clearly visible. Once you know where the valve is, be

sure that everyone, of responsible age, in the home is aware of its location and how to shut off the water.