Fixing Outdoor Leaks

If a hose bib or outdoor faucet leaks, and a good hand-tightening won’t fix it, replace the old washer. Look for wet spots in the landscape to help locate broken pipes and leaky or broken sprinkler heads. Buy replacement parts and fix them. Inspect water lines, sprinklers, emitters, and any other components for possible leaks every month. Install a shut-off nozzle on your hose. Plant water-wise “Valley Friendly” plants in your garden and limit turf areas. Installing a drip system is an efficient way to direct the water exactly where it is needed. Spraying or using a sprinkler system, throws the water out into the air where it is quickly evaporated. Be sure to check irrigation timers and spray heads on a regular basis and mark your calendar to reset for the appropriate season to ensure the most efficient operation.

Call our office for a FREE water schedule refrigerator magnet.

Leaking Pipes

Some leaks are caused by carelessness. Make sure you give all sink and shower faucets a good tight turn to make sure they are completely closed off. Often, pipe leaks occur at the fittings. Look for leaks at pipe connection points for all of your household water-use appliances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Opening</th>
<th>Gallons wasted per month</th>
<th>Gallons wasted per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/32”</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>75,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/16”</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/8”</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>1.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16”</td>
<td>225,000</td>
<td>2.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4”</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>4.8 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: California Urban Water Conservation Council)

Evaporative Coolers

A leaking evaporative cooler isn’t cool. Evaporative coolers (“swamp coolers”) can efficiently cool a Fresno home, but a leaky cooler wastes a tremendous amount of water. Make sure the water level in the water pan is below the top of the overflow pipe. If the level is too high, bend the float valve arm downward (similar to adjusting the float ball in toilet tank). Also check the water lines leading to the cooler for leaks. Tighten loose connections. Change cooler pads often!

REMINDER -- Don’t forget to check the connections on your hot water tank and clothes washers!
CHECK TOILET LEAKS
A leaking toilet can waste thousands of gallons of water. To check yours, put 10-15 drops of food dye into the tank. After 5-10 minutes, check the bowl for color. If there is color in your bowl, your toilet is leaking. The most likely culprit is the “flapper”.

The Toilet

THE FLAPPER (seat ball)
The flapper is what keeps water in the tank from flowing into the bowl. Make sure the flapper fits properly on the valve seat. It should fall straight onto the valve seat. A “worn” flapper won’t seal properly either. To replace the flapper, turn off the toilet water supply valve and flush the toilet to drain the tank. Clean the seal and follow the instructions that came with the new flapper. Turn water supply valve back on to refill the tank and run the dye test again. Approximately 90% of the leaks found are due to the toilet flapper. Tablet-type cleaning products placed in tank can shorten the life of the flapper considerably.

Faucets & Showerheads

DRIPPING FAUCETS AND SHOWERHEADS
Dripping faucets are not only a nuisance they are a waste of precious water. The problem is probably a worn washer. Standard stem faucets with separate handles for hot and cold water use flat washers with a hole in the middle for a washer screw. Replacing the washer is easy and requires the use of a wrench, screwdriver and a washer.

A leaky showerhead might be caused by an old washer in the faucet handle. Plumbing and hardware stores sell replacement parts. Contract a licensed for difficult plumbing projects. Teflon tape wrapped around the pipe threads can help eliminate leaks as well.

FREE surveys for City customers!
Landscape Irrigation Consultation Surveys: We can check for leaks and provide irrigation information, along with water-wise plant tips. We can also show you how to set your timer.

Interior Surveys: We can check for water leaks for our residential or commercial/industrial customers.

REBATES
Contact us about toilet and clothes washer rebates!

City of Fresno
Water Conservation Program
Call (559) 621-5480
waterconservation@fresno.gov
www.fresnowater.org
For Spanish or Hmong translation, call 621-5480