

How to check for a leak

The Town of Wayland has installed 3 different styles of residential water meters over the years. Each type of water meter is equipped with a low flow indicator which can be used to check for leaks.



Water leaks can be a very costly and cause property damage. Additionally, leaks can result in very large water bills. If you suspect you have a leak, take the following steps:

1. Write down the meter reading.
2. Turn off all the water fixtures and appliances.
3. Write down the reading again on the meter.
4. Wait approximately 15 minutes.
5. Look at the flow indicator:

Straight-reading meter: If the black triangle or the red dial is turning, you have a leak.

Digital Water Meter: Does the plus sign (+) disappear or remain? If the (+) sign disappears then the flow of water through the meter has stopped. If the (+) sign remains then a fixture in your home is still using water or you have a leak somewhere in your home. Please note that the digital water meters are continuously performing mathematical calculations so it may take a few minutes for the numbers to stop moving.

If you think you have a leak, the most likely culprit is a toilet that is running constantly. A faulty flapper on the toilet can cost you \$100 or more a month if it's allowed to run undetected. Other places to look for a leak include the base of your water heater, faucets with faulty washers and even your ice maker (if it fails to shut off as it's supposed to do.) The issue could also be a leak in your lawn irrigation system, which are often distinguishable by a patch of green that is noticeably greener than the rest of the lawn.

Please feel free to contact the Water Division at 508-358-3672 for additional guidance on this issue.