How to Detect Water Pipe Leaks & Problems

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Air Conditioning
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1 Check your water meter

The fastest way to determine if your plumbing system is leaking is by checking your water meter.

- Make sure no water is being used outside or inside your house.

- Check your water meter's leak indicator to see if it is moving. Depending on the brand of the meter, the leak indicator could be a small silver wheel or a small triangular shaped dial that rotates when water is flowing through the meter. If the dial is moving, there is a chance that you have a leak.

- You can also take a meter reading, wait 1 hour and take a second meter reading. If the reading has changed, you have a leak.

Is the leak inside or outside of your home?

- Shut off your home's main water valve. This valve is usually located inside or outside the garage.

- Check the leak indicator in your water meter. If it's not moving or readings are the same, then you have a leak inside of your house. If the leak indicator continues to move or there is a change in the meter readings, then the leak is outside between the meter & the house.

2 Finding Other Water Leaks

Finding the exact location of a leak may not always be immediately obvious.

- Some leaks may start at one location, then flow along a ledge or channel before they drain down and create some visible damage.

- Look for wet, warped or discoloration stains on your ceilings, walls, floors and woodwork.

- Excessive condensation is also a form of water leak. It can cause damage to your ceilings, walls, woodworking & floors.
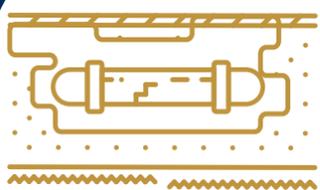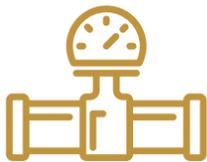
Underground Leak Detection 3

A perpetual puddle in your backyard may be a sign of an underground leak.

Visual Inspection

- Look & feel for portions of your property that are always wet.

- Look for evidence of water flow. It may not be a steady stream of water; it may only be a puddle that never dries up or a darker spot.

Meter Reading

- Look at your water meter and write down the meter reading. Don't run any water for a few hours. Re-read your meter.

- If it shows use, and you've already fixed all other known leaks, then you may have an underground leak.

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