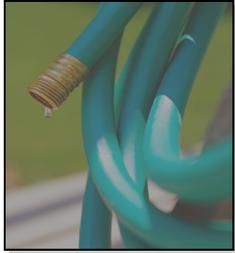


Outdoor Leaks and Water Smart Landscaping



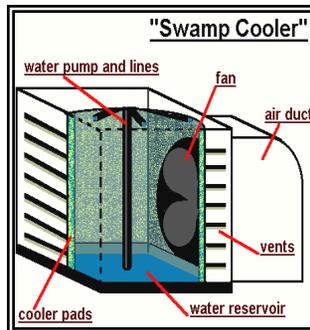
Review your water bill for excessive water use. If a hose bib or outdoor faucet leaks and a good hand-tightening won't stop the drip, replace the old washer. Install a shut-off nozzle on your hose. Look for wet areas in the landscape to locate

broken irrigation system pipes. Identify leaky or broken sprinkler heads – repair them.

Design, select and install low water smart plants and landscape products. Seasonally, inspect your sprinkler heads, drip emitters, and other irrigation components for possible leaks. Install efficient drip systems. Set timer or hand water at a slow, deep rate. Limit spray and rotary sprinkles to a limited area of turf. Reduce evaporation, spray irrigate before 8:00a.m. and after 8:00 p.m. Reset timers on a monthly basis. Seasonal rainfall reduces need to water. Harvest and irrigate plants with rainwater whenever possible.

Don't Forget the Evaporative Cooler

A leaking evaporative cooler isn't cool. Evaporative coolers ("swamp coolers") can efficiently cool an Arizona home, but a leaky cooler can waste a tremendous amount of water. Make sure the 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 a toilet tank). Also check the water lines leading to the cooler for leaks. Tighten any loose or leaky connections.



Check for Leaks Today!

Identify and repair indoor and/or outdoor leaks. Your prompt attention may result in a reduction in your water bill.

Now that's water smart.

Call: 928.777.1130



Public Works

Water Conservation

433 N. Virginia Street
Prescott, AZ 86302
Phone: 928.777.1130
Fax: 928.771.5929

E-mail address:

water.smart@prescott-az.gov

Web address:

www.prescott-az.gov

WATER CONSERVATION

928-777-1130

Service 24/7. Leave a message request the Water Conservation Incentive application or the "Water Smart" landscape guidelines.



Printed on 30% post consumer paper

Water Smart™



A Guide to Finding and Fixing Water Leaks



Do You Have a Water Leak?

Reading your water meter can help you detect leaks. Drips and leaky pipes when undetected waste thousands of gallons of water and result in high monthly water bills.



Dripping faucets and running toilets are pretty easy to detect. Underground leaks are invisible and can literally wash away the structural integrity of your home. Review your monthly water use. Read your meter if you detect a "hidden" water leak.

5 steps to detecting a water leak

1. Locate your water meter.
2. Turn off all indoor and outdoor water-using devices including the evaporative cooler, water softeners, and icemaker.
3. Record the reading on your water meter.
4. Wait 30 minutes and read the meter again.
5. If the reading is different, you have a leak!

The Faucet and Showerhead



REPLACE OLD AND WORN OUT WASHERS

Dripping faucets are not only a nuisance, they are a waste of precious water. The problem is usually a worn washer. Standard stem type faucets having 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 using a wrench, screwdriver and a new washer. Take your original washer or part into the hardware store to help select the correct replacement washer or part.

Does your shower head drip?

Even a low-flow showerhead will waste water if it drips. A leaky showerhead might be caused by an old washer in the faucet handle. Replace the worn washer. Plumbing and hardware stores sell replacement parts. Call a licensed plumber when you need help on difficult plumbing projects.



Do you have a low-flow 2.5 gpm or lower gpm shower head?

Don't forget to check the connections on your hot water tank for leaks.



FAUCET DRIPS

60 drops per minute
192 gallons per month
2,304 gallons per year

90 drops per minute
310 gallons per month
3,720 gallons per year

120 drops per minute
429 gallons per month
5,148 gallons per year

The Water Closet...Toilet

Leaky Water Pipes

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



FIND LEAKY PIPES INDOORS AND OUT*

Size of Opening	Gallons wasted per month:	Gallons waste per year:
1/32"	6,300	75,600
1/16"	25,000	300,000
1/8"	100,000	1.2 million
3/16"	225,000	2.7 million
1/4"	400,000	4.8 million

* at 60 lbs. of water pressure

(Source: California Urban Water Conservation Council)

Check your toilets for leaks

If your water meter steps indicates a leak, begin your leak detection research with the toilet. A leaking toilet can waste thousands of gallons of water. To check for leaks, put 10-15 drops of food dye into the tank. After 5-10 minutes, check the bowl for color. If the dye color is in the bowl, your toilet is leaking.

The most likely culprit is the "flapper."



The Flapper (tank 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 valve and flush the toilet to drain the tank. Clean the seal and follow the instruction that came with the new flapper. Now run the dye test again. Approximately 90% of the leaks found are due to the toilet flapper. Tablet-type cleaning products placed in the tank can shorten the life of a flapper considerably.

