

## How to Check For a Water Leak

Step 1. Turn off all water-using appliances so that no water is being used. This means turning off all water inside and outside the house including showers, sinks, washing machines, and any appliance that uses water. If you have an irrigation system, make sure you are currently not watering, but leave the system charged.

Step 2. Locate your meter box to access your meter. Refer to “How to Read Your Water Meter” pamphlet.



Step 3. Take the lid off the meter box and lift the protective cover. See “How to Read Your Water Meter” pamphlet for directions. **Watch the meter.** Your meter will have a red star wheel that is commonly called a “leak indicator.” If it is spinning, even very slowly, you have a leak. If it is not spinning, look at the red pointer and note the number it is pointing at.

Once again, make certain that all water is off and return in 10-20 minutes to see if the red pointer has moved. If it has moved you have a slow leak — go to step 4. If not, you do not have a leak.

Step 4. If you have an irrigation system, shut it off at the backflow prevention assembly. If the meter stops spinning, the leak is in the irrigation system.

Step 5. If the meter keeps spinning, locate your main shut off valve at the house (often referred to as a stop and drain valve), which is usually located under the house. Close this valve and open the nearest, lowest fixture to make sure the water is fully shut off.

Step 6. Return to your meter and observe if the red star wheel has stopped moving. Look again at the red pointer and note the number it is pointing at. Return in 10-20 minutes to see if the red pointer has moved. If the star wheel is moving, or the red pointer has moved in the 10-20



minutes, you most likely have a leak on your water line between the meter box and the house. Please contact a local plumber to have this investigated and repaired.



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Our website also has updates and additional information:  
[www.tcpud.org](http://www.tcpud.org)



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