

## **How to Determine if You Have a Water Leak**

Are you using too much water? Is your water usage too high? You may have a water leak and not even know it. The City of Pompano Beach Customer Service Division would like to help you conserve an important resource and help lower your water bill. Performing some basic inspections of your plumbing system for leaks can make a big difference in your monthly usage. The most common cause of lost water in residential plumbing systems is the toilet tank. Malfunctioning lawn sprinkler systems are a second cause of water loss.

### **? Meter Readings**

Start by taking a series of meter readings from your water meter located outside of your house. Take a meter reading just before going to bed, or when no one will use any water for several hours. Then take another meter reading in the morning before any water is used, or after a few hours of non-usage. If the two readings are not the same, then water has flowed through the meter. If you cannot account for the use by an ice cube maker, toilet flush, or some other known use, you probably have a leak.

### **? Toilet Tank**

Toilets can waste water through leaky flapper plugs or from a water level that is set to high, resulting in over-filling of the tank. Toilet tank leaks typically result from worn parts or misalignment of some part of the flushing mechanism. Most repairs can be done by an experienced "do it yourselfer". If you are not sure you can handle the job, call a plumber.

The flapper plug is located at the bottom of the tank. To test the flapper plug, carefully remove the lid from the toilet tank and mark the water level with a pencil. Shut off the water supply to the toilet. If the water level drops below the mark you made after 10 minutes, the flapper plug is leaking and should be repaired or replaced. If the water level remains on the mark, the flapper plug is not leaking.

The water level in the toilet tank should be at least 1 inch below the top of the overflow tube (the hollow tube in the center of the tank). If the water level in the toilet tank is closer than 1 inch to the top of the overflow tube, the tank may be overflowing into the tube and wasting water. The water level in the tank can usually be lowered by adjusting the float.

### **? Sprinkler System**

To check your lawn sprinkler system, turn on each zone, and check the flow from each sprinkler head. Heads that have poor flow may either be clogged or be an indication of a broken sprinkler upstream from the head. Missing sprinkler heads will flow the equivalent of a broken water pipe when the zone is on, resulting in dramatically increased water use.

If you have any questions regarding this information please feel free to contact our office at: 786-4637 or [www.mypompanobeach.org](http://www.mypompanobeach.org).