

# WHY IS MY WATER CONSUMPTION HIGH?

The most common reason for increased water consumption is a leaking toilet. This does NOT mean you will see water pooling on the floor outside the toilet. The water is simply running through the toilet. That is why identifying if a toilet is leaking should be done as soon as you [suspect a leak!](#) There are some simple steps you can take to test a toilet for leaks.

One way you can check your toilet for leaks is to open the toilet tank, drop a dye tablet or some food coloring in, and wait 15 to 20 minutes. **DO NOT FLUSH THE TOILET DURING THIS TIME.** When you return, look in the toilet *bowl* (not the tank). If you see colored water in the bowl, then you have a leak.

There are other ways to check if you don't have food coloring or dye on hand. Make sure your water level isn't above the overflow pipe in the tank. If it is, then you may have a problem with your fill valve. If you see water trickling down the inside of the toilet bowl when it hasn't been flushed, this is a sign of a leak. If your unused toilet is making lots of noise (a running noise), then you definitely have a leak. If you can jiggle the handle and make the running stop then you probably need to adjust the flapper valve or the chain connecting the flush handle to the flapper valve. You may not be aware that a running toilet can use upwards of 5,000 gallons IN A DAY! Sometimes it may be necessary to replace the flapper. You can find a kit at any hardware store.

If you think your toilet might be leaking, but none of these tests work, there is one last way to determine if a toilet has a bad seal. Before you go to bed, shut the water off to the toilet in question. In the morning, check the water level in the tank. If the water level is low and close to the bottom of the tank, then one or more of your tank parts is bad and is allowing the leak.

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