

Locate Your Master Valve

Do you know where to find your master water supply valve? During an emergency, you can't afford to waste time searching for it!

The most common locations in your house or apartment are:

- where the water supply pipe enters your home
- near your clothes washer hook-up
- near your water heater

Every home, apartment and business has a master valve. To determine whether or not you've found it, try turning the valve off briefly and see if that shuts off all water faucets in the building. If not, repeat this process with each valve until you can do this successfully.

Once you've found the master valve, be sure to mark it with something distinctive—bright paint, a tag or ribbon. This will save you valuable time should you ever experience interior

flooding or other crisis requiring quick water shut-off.

Leaky Faucets

Most leaks result from worn washers in faucets and showerheads. All faucets (including those seldom used such as utility sinks or in basements) should be checked periodically. Repairing faucets is easy: just shut off the water supply to



that particular faucet, replace the washer, and turn on the water supply again. If you feel you need some assistance in doing this, check out a do-it-yourself book from the local library or ask a qualified person for help.

Toilets

Toilet leaks tend to be less obvious than faucet leaks, but they can waste a significant amount of water if not tended to. If water is still running into the toilet bowl after it has stopped filling from the flush cycle, or if you can hear water running after the cycle is complete, your toilet is leaking.

Most toilet leaks occur at the overflow pipe or at the plunger ball inside the tank. To locate these kinds of leaks, remove the tank lid and flush the toilet. The water level should come to roughly a half-inch below the overflow pipe. Try adjusting the float level control screw so that the valve shuts off the water at the proper level. If the valve itself is leaking you may need to contact a plumber.

Although water may not be seen or heard running, your toilet may have a



Water waste outside

It's easy to overlook a hose that wasn't turned off completely, and thousands of gallons of water can be wasted that way in just over a period of a few months. Remember to include those outside faucets and hoses on your regular "water inspection." A little detective work several times a year can catch these water thieves in the act and put them out of circulation.

**Do your part to use water wisely.
See that it's never wasted.**



silent leak. To test for this, put a few drops of food coloring into the tank, but **DO NOT FLUSH**. If, after about 10 minutes, traces of the food coloring appear in the toilet bowl, your toilet has a silent leak. The leak is most likely to be located in or around the plunger ball or flapper valve at the bottom of the tank. These leaks are easy to fix with parts available at your home improvement or hardware store.

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