The City of Spruce Grove

HANDY TIPS FOR DETECTING LEAKS IN YOUR HOME

The cost to maintain and operate the City of Spruce Grove's water and sewer utility is paid for by utility rates charged per cubic metre (m3) of water used. This is known as user-pay utility billing.

Each utility customer has a water meter that measures and records the volume of water that flows from the meter to the home. This includes water used by the customer or water leakage from things like pipes, valves, appliances, taps, and toilets.

Check out the tips below to detect leaks in and around your home!

Check for leaks to save money

Water leaks can occur when an appliance doesn't cut off properly after it uses water, or a valve doesn't seal the flow of water. Here are some common sources of water leaks to monitor:

- **Toilets** – Check your toilets on a regular basis! Some leaks are intermittent and may only appear from time to time (flip me over for an easy way to test for toilet leaks).
- **Faucets** – Failed washers in taps can lead to leaks. A slow and steady drip can amount to a large amount of water going down the drain.
- **Furnace Humidifiers** – Clogged valves may not close properly and can cause the humidifier to run continuously. The humidifier will also run if you activate the fan in the summer.
- **Water softeners** – Softeners can get stuck on the cleaning cycle and run continuously. Check your softener on a regular basis to make sure it is running properly!
- **Outside taps** – Don't rely on your spray nozzle to stop the flow of water from your outdoor hose. Instead, turn the water supply off at the faucet to prevent water waste.

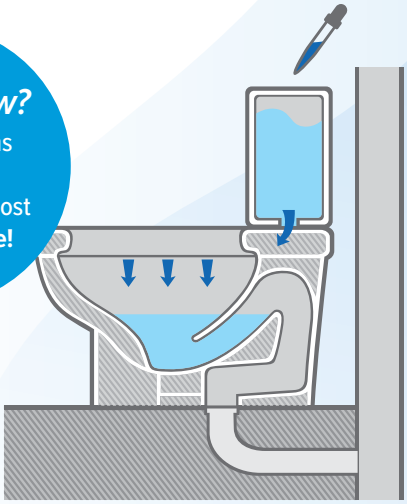
Detect toilet leaks

One of the most common problems is water leaking from the toilet tank into the bowl. This can be from a faulty or worn flapper. While it might not be easy to see or hear, it's easy to test for:

1. Remove the tank cover from the back of your toilet
2. Add 10 drops of food colouring to your tank
3. Wait 15-20 minutes. Do not flush the toilet.
4. Check your toilet bowl. If the water has changed colour, you have a leak.

Did you know?

A toilet that runs constantly for **one month** can cost **$1,000 or more!**



Looking for more water-saving tips?

Visit **sprucegrove.org/Tap** or scan the QR code for a video on where to find common leaks that waste water.

Questions about your water and sewer utility?

Call us: 780-962-7597
Email: utinfo@sprucegrove.org

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