

# WATER SAVING TIPS: LEAK DETECTION

**Look at the water usage on your utility bill.** Compare your current usage to the same months of previous years. Unusually high water usage may indicate a leak.

**Check your water meter.** Write down a meter reading, and check it again a few hours later (make sure not to use any water while performing this test).

**Try a slow leak test.** Watch the small triangular-shaped dial located on your water meter for a few minutes. The dial will move or spin if there is a leak. Small or slow leaks will cause the dial to spin very slowly while more significant leaks will cause the dial to turn quickly.

**Try a food coloring toilet test.** Check for toilet tank leaks by adding several drops of food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes.

**Replace your showerheads.** If your showerhead is leaking, it may be time to replace it. Austin Water offers free low-flow showerheads.

**Check your laundry water supply valve.** Leaks in the laundry supply can drip unnoticed down the laundry drain.

**Check your in-ground irrigation system for damage.** This is especially important before turning the system back on for the spring and summer irrigation season and after mowing your lawn.

**Watch for soggy spots in your yard or uneven plant growth.** This might be a sign of a leak in your underground water pipes.

**Visually inspect the foundation of your house.** Standing water around the foundation could mean your underground pipes have become damaged.

**Look out for algae.** A buildup of algae on the ground or walls around the outdoor spigot may be the result of an undetected leak.

**Pay Attention to Pool Levels.** Use a grease pencil to mark the desired water level, watch for a drop of 6 inches or more per month. This amount typically indicates a leak. Be sure to check the pumps as well as the area around the water pump for any signs of escaping water.

Find more Austin Water Conservation Tips at [WaterWiseAustin.org](http://WaterWiseAustin.org)