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Tips for looking for water leak in your home.

If you have seen an increase in your water use, but don't see any visible signs of a leak, here are a few steps to follow to help determine if there is a leak on your property. If after following these guidelines you still think you have a leak in your house, it's best to hire a professional plumber to come and inspect the property for you.

Leaky faucets are a major waste of water. One slow dripping faucet can waste up to 20 gallons of water a day. Over the period of a year this can add up to six thousand gallons of water. Check all faucets in your home for any type of leak.

If you own a dishwasher it is suggested that you only run it when you have a full load ready to be cleaned. A typical dishwasher will use 15 gallons of water each load. Running loads that are only half full is a waste of water. Check around the bottom of your dishwasher for leaks. Leave paper towels around the outside of the machine while it is in use. When the dishwasher stops running check the paper towels for signs of water. If you find water leaking you should have your machine serviced immediately.

Leaking toilets are often the culprits. If your toilet runs often have the mechanisms in your tank completely replaced. Some toilets have slow leaks that are not noticeable. Slow water leaks in toilets can waste up to 100 gallons of water per day. Get some food coloring and drop some in the tank of your toilet. Watch the bowl of your toilet for 20 to 30 minutes to see if any of the food coloring appears. Check again in 15 minutes. If coloring appears this means you have a slow leak. Flush your toilet after the test to avoid any staining of your bowl.

If you have a hose connected to an exterior faucet you should check it for leaks. The best way to avoid this is to turn off the water supply at the faucet rather than relying on the hose spray attachment to stop the flow of the water. A small leak can add gallons to your daily water usage.

You can also use your water meter to check for any hidden leaks. Turn off all faucets and make sure you are not running any appliances that use water. Check the reading on your meter and do so again in a few hours. If your meter has moved you have a hidden water leak somewhere in your home. A good time to try this test is at night. Read your water meter before going to bed, then again in the morning. Assuming that no water has been used overnight, if the meter has moved at all, you have a leak somewhere.