

# How to test for leaks

## Waterwise Business Information Sheet

### Did you know that hidden leaks could cause an increase in your water usage account?

Water leaks can occur anywhere within your water supply system. That is why it is important to keep a close watch on both your internal plumbing and garden reticulation systems.

A tap leaking half a litre per minute can cost you an additional \$120 per year. An underground leak of five litres per minute can cost an additional \$2,000.

To test for leaks:

- Turn off all taps.
- Turn off any equipment which uses water (e.g. cooling towers).
- Once you are certain there is no water being used on the property – check the meter. Write down the full current reading on the meter.
- The meter should not be visibly registering any use.
- After a period of time (as long as is practically possible depending on your business water requirements) write a second full reading of the meter.
- If, whilst looking at the meter during the testing period, you noticed the meter was registering or if the second reading taken from the meter is different from the first reading taken, it is quite probable that there is a leak somewhere in your water supply system.
- If either of the above occurred you should contact a licensed plumber to find the fault and repair it.
- If certain conditions are met, you may be eligible for an ex-gratia leak allowance.
- Regular monitoring of your water use patterns by taking ongoing readings from your meter will help in early detection of any leaks at your property.



### Leaking toilets

Inspect all toilets regularly for leaks. Conduct dye tests by putting a few drops of food colouring in the toilet cistern and check for colour in the toilet bowl 15 minutes later. If there is colour in the bowl, your cistern is leaking.