

Toilet Tank Leak Testing

Identifying and fixing water leaks in your home can save you a substantial amount of money on your water and sewer bills. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), 10 percent of the homes in the United States have a leak that wastes 90 gallons of water a day. The most common overlooked place for a leak in a home is in your toilet tank. As toilets age, they can start to leak, and the leaks are often hard to see. A leak in a toilet tank is expensive because you are continually filling the tank, which is similar to leaving a faucet on all day. Dripping faucets are the second most costly problem in a household.

There is a simple test to determine if you have any leaks. Carefully remove the toilet tank lid and pour about 8 to 10 drops of food coloring (darker colors work best) into the water in the toilet tank. Wait about 15 to 30 minutes to see if the dyed water transfers into the toilet bowl. If there's dye in the bowl, then you know the water is constantly filling the tank. Water may be going through the overflow pipe or around a deteriorated flapper. Check around the toilet to ensure there aren't any other leaks.

Toilet tank parts are commonly available at your local hardware store, and many people are comfortable installing them. If you'd prefer, the cost of the plumber will more than pay for itself within as little as a month or two.

In addition, other parts of your water system might be leaking or using more water than they should, and a plumber might be helpful with troubleshooting and repairing these items:

- Leaky faucets

- Water softener operating too frequently

- Private well storage tank bladder leak

- Humidifier system leak

- Steam heating system leak

- Irrigation system leak