

FIXING LEAKS IN PLUMBING FIXTURES, PIPES, ETC.; **POSSIBLE ACCOUNT ADJUSTMENT AFTER A LEAK REPAIR**

- It is important to find and fix leaks to save water and dollars. Some research indicates that leaks account for 14% of residential water use.
- Toilets are one of the most frequent places where leaks occur in residences. To check a toilet for a leak, put some drops of food dye in the toilet tank and wait 15 to 20 minutes without flushing. If the food dye appears in the bowl, there is a leak. Leaks in toilets often happen at the flapper in the bottom of the tank, but a malfunctioning fill valve or high water level in the tank may also cause a leak.
- We encourage you to regularly check the following for leaks:
 - Plumbing system pipes
 - Toilets (including the supply line to the toilet tank), faucets and showerheads
 - Water heater
 - Clothes and dishwaters, including pipes and hoses.
 - Irrigation system, if you have one
 - Outdoor spigots, faucets and hoses
 - Other water-using appliances and fixtures.
- You can check the OWASA water meter for your home, business, etc. to monitor your water use and do a basic check to see if there is a leak somewhere in your plumbing system. For more information: [How to Read a Water Meter \(PDF\)](#).
- **When you find a leak, it should be repaired by someone who knows how to do the work properly. If a leak is not fixed correctly, the result can be more water loss.**
- For some basic do-it-yourself information about fixing a leaky faucet, you may wish to do an Internet search for a topic such as “leaky faucets.”

One such website is <http://www.doityourself.com/stry/h2repairvalve>.

- If you fix a leak in your plumbing system, please contact OWASA Customer Service at (919) 537-4343, or send an e-mail to webmaster@owasa.org to ask about getting a getting credit on your account.
- Please see our policy on account credits for fixing some kinds of leaks: [Adjustments to Your Account after a Leak Has Been Repaired](#).