



**NASSAU-AMELIA
UTILITIES**

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How can I tell if I have a leak?

To check for water leaks you can use your water meter. To do so follow these easy steps:

1. Turn off all the water uses in your house (faucets, dishwasher, laundry, irrigation systems, etc.) and grab screwdriver.
2. Find your water meter. In most cases, it will be in front of your house near the sidewalk or street. The meter is in a small underground box. Look for a rectangular meter cover that could be made of cement, metal, or plastic.
3. Lift the cover using the screwdriver or other tool. Be careful when removing the lid take care not to cut or break the wire. Also, spiders and other things live in the meter boxes.
4. If there is more than one meter in the box, either you have more than one meter or one belongs to your neighbor. If you have two meters and one is for the irrigation system, turn on the irrigation system to find out which is the irrigation meter. If you share a meter box and one belongs to your neighbor, you can turn on an outside spigot on your house and see which meter turns in response to find out which meter is yours.
5. Once you have identified the proper meter, lift the meter cap and look for the flow indicator (a small red or black triangle). If the flow indicator is not moving there is no leak.
6. Close the meter cap to protect the lens and carefully replace the meter cover.

What can I do if I have a leak and don't know where it's coming from?

A series of simple tests will identify the most common types of leaks:

1. Double-check to see that all water was turned off. What about automatic refill usage, such as the pool, fountain, water softener, automatic ice maker, and hot water heater?
2. Is the leak indoors or outdoors? Turn off the master shutoff valve at your home, and if the flow indicator is still spinning, your leak is outdoors between the meter and the shutoff valve. Locate and repair underground leaks as soon as possible, because if left unchecked, they could cause property damage.
3. If the leak is indoors, first check the toilets. Shut off all toilets using the valve at the wall behind the toilet, and check the flow indicator on the meter. If it stops spinning, at least one toilet is leaking. Turn them on one by one, checking the flow indicator after each one; more than one toilet could be leaking.
4. Check toilet leaks-start by removing the toilet tank lid. Add 10 drops of food coloring into the tank. Put the lid back on. Do not flush. Wait 10-15 minutes, and then look in the bowl. If you see colored water, you have a leak. If not, you don't.
5. Check other appliances, including water softener, water heater, water cooled air conditioner, and automatic ice maker. Almost all have bypass valves. Turn them off one by one, check the meter between each.
6. Turn off the master valve to the irrigation system and check the meter. This will identify a leak in the headworks of the irrigation system, but not in the distribution pipes or sprinkler heads.

If none of these tests locate your leak, it's time to call the plumber.