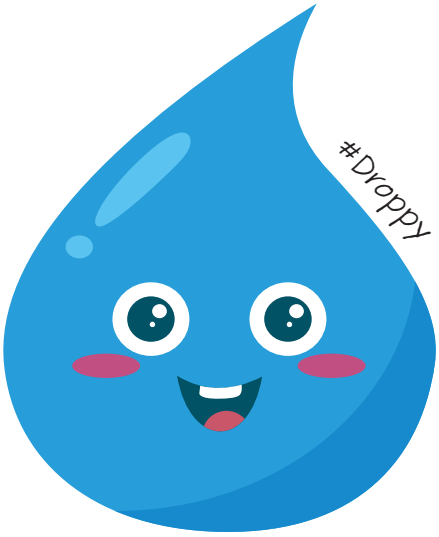
The 10 Minute Water Leak Detection and Measurement Kit



#1. Dye tablets are used to detect leaks in a toilet, even potentially unseen or unheard ones.

CAREFULLY lift the lid off the toilet tank and place where it will not fall or break. These things can shatter when dropped, not just clank around. With dry hands (unless you want blue fingers) open the dye tablet package and let the tablets fall into the toilet tank, NOT THE BOWL. Set a timer for 10 minutes. DO NOT FLUSH!

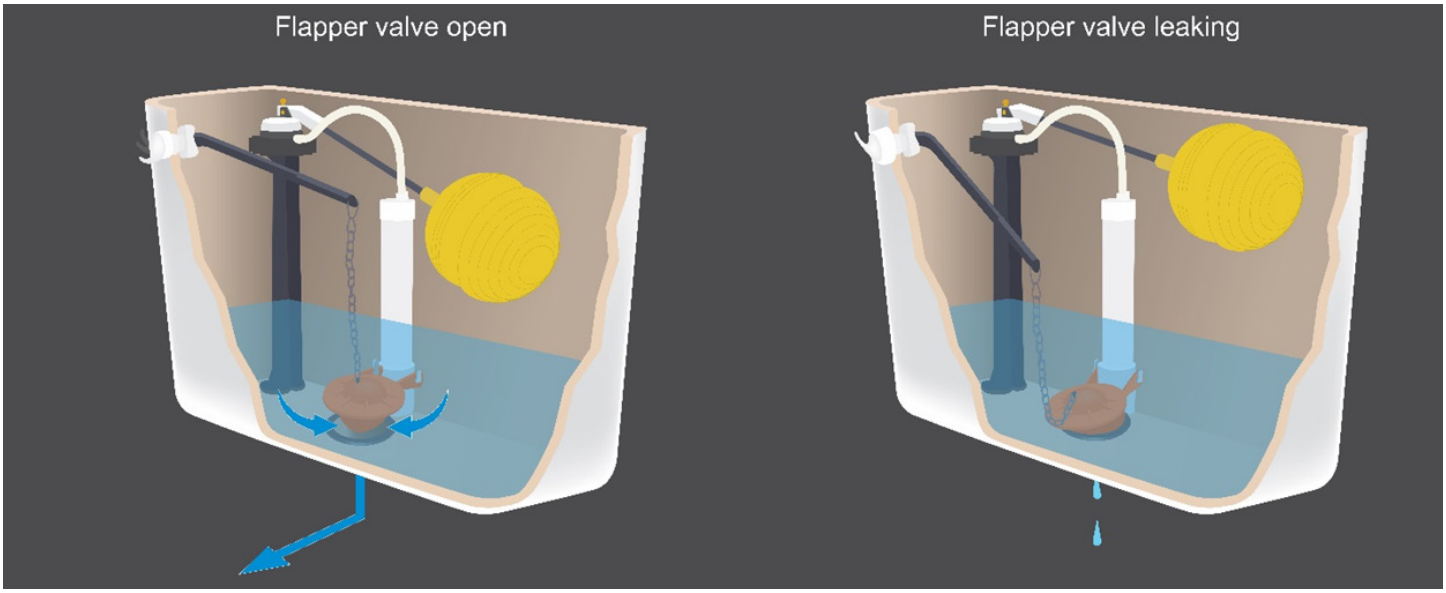
------Now would be an ideal time to go do these other leak tests, #2-#4------

After 10 minutes, look in the toilet bowl.

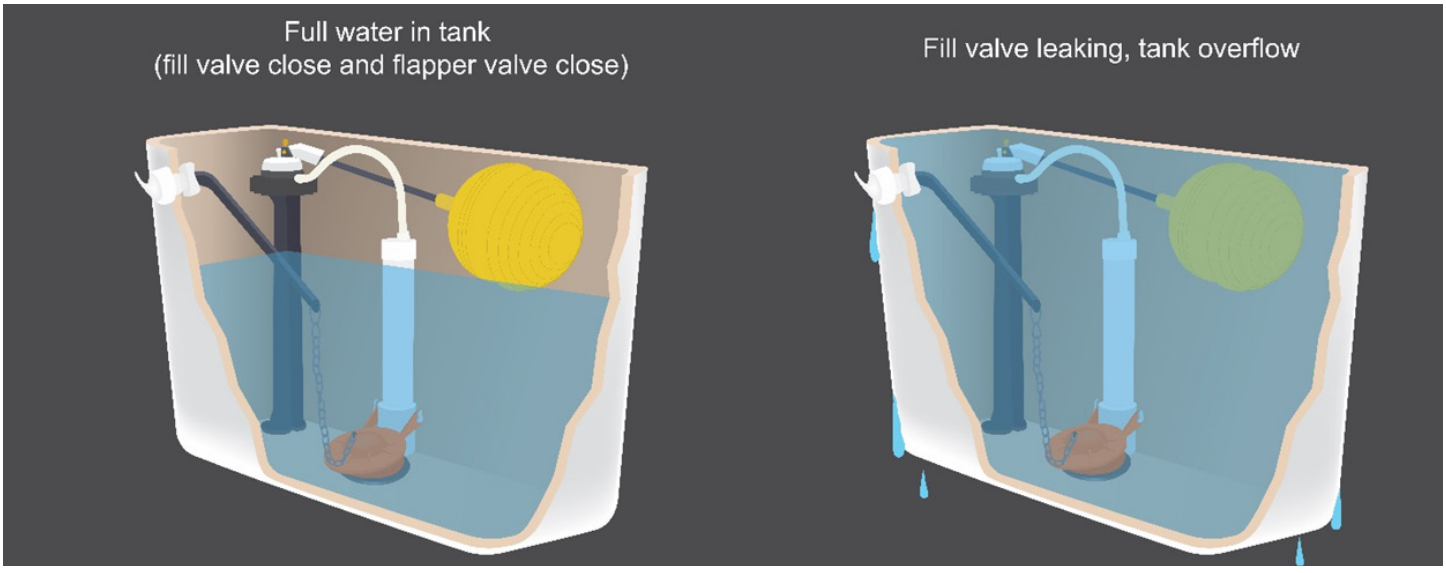
No blue?	No leaks.
Blue streaks?	Small leak.
Whole bowl blue?	Large leak.

Options for addressing toilet leaks.

Small to Medium Leaks: Fix Your Flapper! The flapper is the part that lifts up in the bottom of the tank when you pull the flusher lever. Did you know that these have a lifespan of about 5 years? Your flapper might be worn out from all that flushing.



Large Leaks: Adjust the water fill level in the tank. The water level should be ½" to 1" below the top of the overflow tube, which is designed to help not overflow tank. If the water level is set to be higher than this point, water will constantly be running down the overflow tube and discharging in the bowl causing a continuous flush. If the water level fill is WAY too high, the tank could overflow because the overflow tube cannot handle the water capacity. FIXING this issue can be done two ways. 1) Adjust the fill tube assembly float or float ball, depending on your toilet design.
2) Sometimes this assembly cannot be adjusted and will need to be replaced.



#2. Flow measuring bag is used to determined the rate of flow for faucets. Once you have determine the rate of flow, you can make adjustments to reduce it.

Open the bag wide and place it under a faucet to be measured. Turn the faucet on and make sure the bag is capturing all the water coming out of the faucet. Do this for **EXACTLY 5 SECONDS**. Turn the faucet off. Now hold the bag and read the amount of water you captured. The measurements on the bag will tell you how much water in **gallons per minute (GPM)** the faucet uses.

A kitchen faucet should not be higher than 2.2 GPM.

A bathroom faucet should not be higher than 1.5 GPM.

To lower the GPM, install a faucet aerator (see #3) or ensure new faucets are low-flow. If neither of these are options, a cost-free method is to not turn the faucet on to max. Try this experiment again using a range of water flow levels.

#3. Faucet aerators are the tips that are located on the end of most faucets. These little screens control the maximum amount of water that can flow from the faucet. They are measured in gallons per minute – GPM – just like the flow measuring bag. On the side of the aerator, it will identify the flow rate, but you might need a magnifying glass.

To change an aerator, simply unscrew the old one and screw in the new one.

Los Alamos County water can clog a faucet aerator over time due to the high mineral content of our water supply.

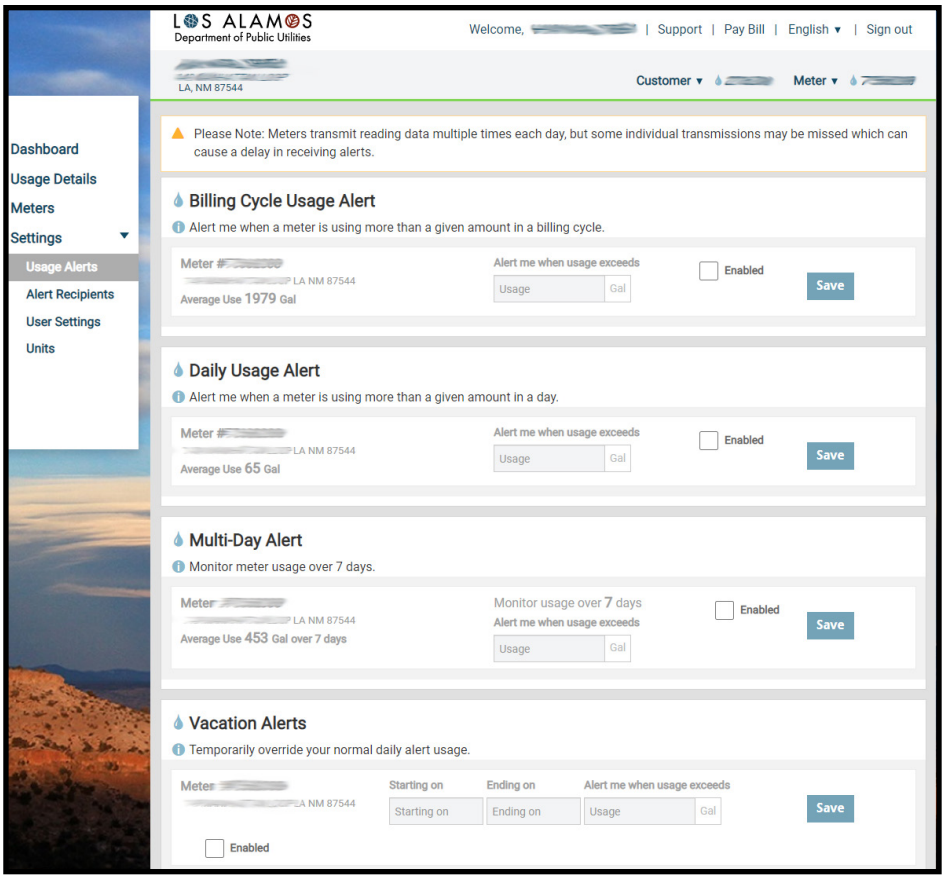
#4. The drip cup will help you determine how much water is wasted from a leaking water fixture. Hold the cup under the dripping fixture for **5 SECONDS.** Hold the cup up to read the measured leak in **gallons per day (GPD)** or **gallons per year (GPY)**. Once you see how much water is being lost, you are more likely to fix the problem.

Note, this leak measuring device also provides waste in liters.

#5 AMI Portal

Sign up for leak alerts on the LAC-DPU Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Portal. This will be an especially useful tool if you use an outdoor irrigation/ watering system in the summer as leaks may not be visually present. AMI also has vacation mode so you can call DPU for a shut off if a leak happens while you are away.

Acces the portal at ladpu.com/Step1



LOS ALAMOS

Department of Public Utilities

Conservation