

How to Find Outdoor Leaks

If you've determined you have at least one leak, here are some ways to track it (or them) down. Note that once you've determined where the leak is, you may need help from a plumber or a repair specialist.

Automatic Lawn and Sprinkling Systems

Soft spots on your lawn and around the sprinkler indicate a leak that is being absorbed into the ground. Contact your plumber or landscape maintenance specialist if repairs are needed.

Swimming Pool

Use a grease pencil to mark the level of your pool at the skimmer. Check it 24 hours later. Your pool should lose no more than 1/4 inch each day. Another leak possibility is the pool system's shutoff valve, which works automatically and could be malfunctioning, causing a continuous cycle of water to be pumped in and then drained out. If the water level stays higher than normal and it overflows when people are using it, call your plumber.

If you have a well, listen to see if the pool pump goes on and off while the water is not in use. If it does, you have a leak.

Service Connecting Line

If you find a soft, wet spot on your lawn or hear the sound of running water outside your house, you may have a leak in the service line to your house. Shut off the main shutoff valve. If the sound of running water continues, the outside service line could be leaking. Contact your plumber if you detect wet spots.