

Around the House
Plumbing Article #2 – Hidden Leaks

Headline

Today's Leak....Tomorrow's Flood?

Subhead

Leaky plumbing fixtures and pipes can be much more than a nuisance...if not dealt with swiftly and thoroughly, you could be facing major water-related damage.

Text

Leaky faucets and shower heads...piece o' cake, right? After all, you can see them, hear them and, very often, fix them yourself...*before* the constant dripping drives you plumb crazy, that is.

But **what about those leaks that *aren't* so easy to spot?** Water leaks can happen anywhere in your home. Here are some of the more common occurrences, and the probable cause behind each...from (company name):

- **Refrigerator** – If you have a built-in icemaker, you have a built-in potential floor messer! In fact, the wet spots you see on the floor might indicate a crimped icemaker line, and if it's crimped, it's just waiting to burst. Also, anytime you move your refrigerator to clean behind it or for any reason at all, check for water. If you find any, remember this: **the smaller the water accumulation, the more damaging the problem can be.** Slow, steady leaks can eventually rot your wood floor, while big, messy leaks are easier to detect and solve before serious damage occurs.
- **Toilets** – Ever seen those hanging bowl deodorants? Well, don't use them. They're prone to slipping and lodging deep in your plumbing system, and can block

the line outright or give grease and other debris something to cling to. Also, certain chlorine tablet cleaners may corrode internal components, and before you know it, you've got a major hard-to-get-at leak. With toilets, here's another truism: **the water you don't see is the water that can hurt you.** Small leaks can head straight to your sub-flooring and, over time, rot the wood. If you see a grayish stain in the vinyl flooring around your toilet that won't come out, give us a call, because it probably means you have a below-the-surface leak.

- **Water Heater** – The telltale sign? Once again, wet spots on the floor. Probable cause? **Internal rust or overfull drain pan.** Fact is, most water heaters are designed to last a maximum of 15 years. So check yours often, and make sure there's a floor drain beneath it. Also, new water heaters include a safety valve, one that is normally closed. There's a pipe attached to the valve that leads outside your home. **If water is leaking from the valve or pipe, the probable cause is a failed safety valve...**something you definitely should not try to tackle on you own.

One final bit of advice. Every now and then, turn off all faucets and water-using appliances, and don't flush your toilets for at least one hour. Next, record the water meter reading. If the flow indicator (rotating button) is spinning or the meter reading changes while no water is being used, chances are you have a leak.

Ultimately, the best way to fix a leak is to find it before damage strikes! And the best way to accomplish that is with a house-wide plumbing inspection. To schedule yours, call us today, and **save \$50 with the attached coupon below...**from your friends at (company name).

Main Coupon

Home Plumbing Inspection

Save \$50...

...on a complete inspection of your home plumbing systems and fixtures. This offer may not be combined with any other discount or promotion.

Teaser Copy

Inside This Issue of “Around the House”...

When it comes to leaky pipes and faucets, it's the leaks you *can't* see that can hurt you the most.

Plus...

3 Coupons You Can Use Now!