

## HOW TO CHECK FOR A WATER LEAK

### **Do not turn off the valve in your meter box!**

Turn off all water inside and outside of the house, including washer, icemakers, dishwasher, all faucets and automatic irrigation system.

- First, locate your meter box. It is generally in the front of your home in a direct line with the main outside faucet. Remove top lid with a meter "key" (available at home improvement centers).
- On the right side of the meter face is a fingerprint symbol. Touch the fingerprint and it will display GPM's (Gallons per minute), serial number and meter reading.
- To isolate the possible leak, turn the water off at your cut-off valve near the house. If the leak is between the meter and your cut-off valve (service line) the meter will continue to show usage.
- To check for a leak in the house, you need to isolate different fixtures in the home. Turn off toilets, hot water heater, sinks, washer, and dishwasher. Recheck the meter to see if it is still running. If it is, it is possible the leak is under the house.
- **Check toilets** for leaks by placing several drops of red, green or blue food coloring (or colored Kool-Aid) in the back tank. If you have cleaning tablets there, remove it and flush to clear.
- Do not flush the toilet after placing food coloring in for an hour or more. If the color shows up in the toilet bowl, the flapper seals need to be replaced.
- **Check your irrigation system** if you have one. If you have leaks in your system, they may not be noticeable unless your system is running. Turn your controller on manually and walk your property, looking for broken sprinkler heads, missing emitters (which will produce small stream of water) or break in irrigation, piping or tubing.

If you suspect a leak, the recommended thing to do is to contact a plumber. If you feel this is not necessary and can do the work yourself, please make the repair as soon as possible.