WATER LEAKS

Whose responsibility is it to fix a water leak?

If the leak is on your property then it is your responsibility.
Council is responsible for leaks either on your property boundary or outside your boundary.
If you suspect or have noted a leak outside your boundary, phone Council on 8958188.

Finding domestic leaks

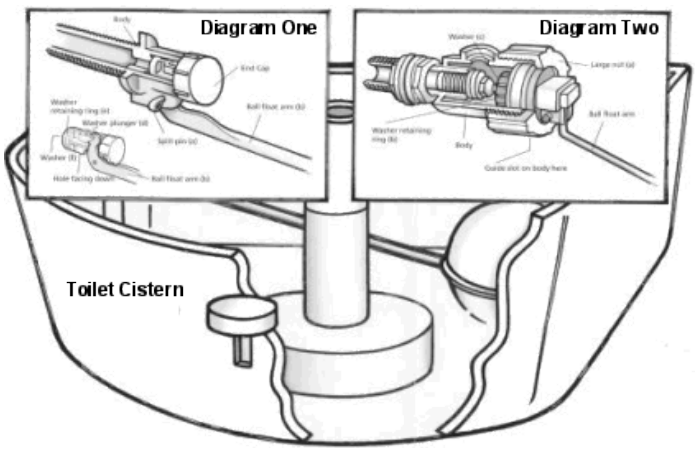
Leaking taps and toilets can be major wasters of water. Here's how you can find and fix leaks around your home easily and quickly:

1 Check for dripping taps (don't forget the hose taps outside including irrigation)
2 Look and see if the toilet is running continuously into the bowl (putting a small amount of food colouring in the system helps show up any leakage), or put a piece of toilet paper on the back of the bowl above the water and watch to see if it gets wet
3 Check the outside overflow from the toilet for water dribbling out
4 Check the hot water overflow on the roof. If water is coming out of this it is wasting hot water - and that can be very expensive. This happens because the ajax valve into the hot water cylinder isn't working properly. Ajax valves are usually found on the bottom of a hot water cylinder. There is usually a pipe that goes from the ajax valve through the ceiling and comes out the roof. This is where water will generally leak from if the ajax valve has blown. Occasionally, this pipe will go through your walls and vent outside directly into the drainage system. If you can hear water running or dripping on the roof (and it's not raining) then it is probably the ajax valve.
5 Have a look around the garden - grass is often very lush above a leaking pipe
6 Listen for running water at night when everything is quiet

Toilet Leaks

Your toilet can be a bit of a drip. Some older cisterns flush 10 or 11 litres a time, perhaps 20 times a day. That's 200 litres or more a day, when they are working properly. Leaking cisterns, either from the overflow or into the toilet bowl, add insult to injury.

Let us help you save money - If you have a single flush toilet your plumber may be able to assist with a gizmo so you can part flush.

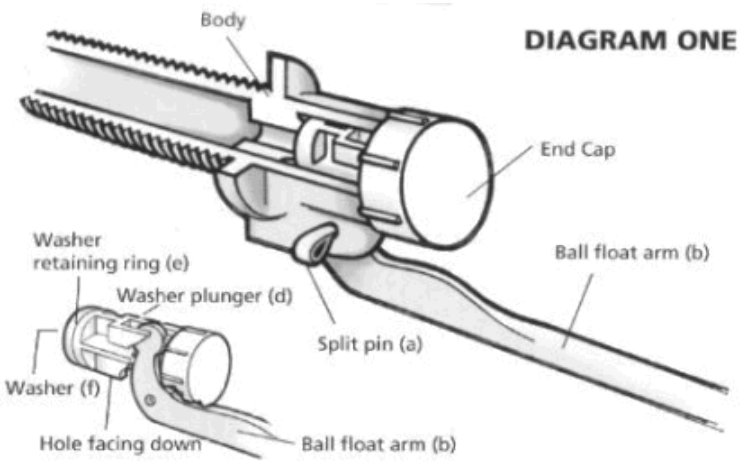


Here's how to fix the problem

If you are losing water through the overflow at the top of the cistern, then the shut-off valve which stops the flow of water into the cistern is not working properly.

In an older cistern, fixing it may simply be a matter of bending the brass arm which runs from the valve to the float. Bend it downwards and it will shut off earlier. Just remember to make sure it lets enough water into the cistern to give a full flush.

If the ball-cock itself is the problem, here is what to do.

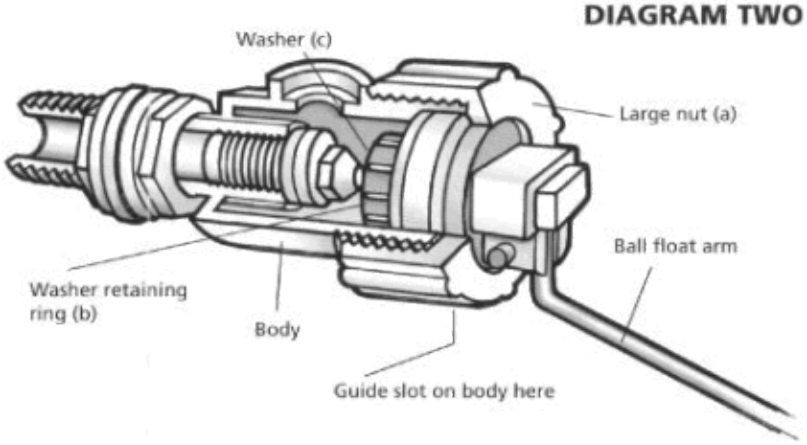


Option 1: If you have an older style cistern like the one in the diagram above

1. turn off the tap on the pipe leading into the cistern
2. flush the cistern to empty it
3. remove the split pin (a) which holds the float in place and remove the float arm (b)
4. unscrew the cap (c) on the end of the valve and remove the washer plunger (d)
5. you may need to turn the water on briefly to make the washer plunger appear. Turn off the tap to stop the water pressure before you remove the valve, otherwise water will go everywhere!
6. unscrew the washer-retaining ring (e) and replace the washer (f)
7. return the washer plunger to the body with the hole facing downwards
8. reinsert the float arm and the split pin and screw on the end cap
9. turn on the water again and test the flush

You can check whether you are losing water through the outlet (or flapper) valve at the bottom of the cistern by putting a few drops of food colouring in the cistern. Don't flush the toilet for about ten minutes and then check the water in the bowl. If it is coloured, you have a leak.

DIAGRAM TWO



Option 2: If you have a modern cistern like the one in diagram two

1. turn off the tap on the pipe leading into the cistern
2. flush the cistern to empty it
3. unscrew the large nut on the end of ball float arm (a)
4. unscrew the washer retaining ring (b) and replace the washer (c)
5. reassemble the float arm assembly ensuring the guide tab lines up with slot at the bottom. Screw the large ring finger tight
6. turn on the water and test the filling of the cistern.