



R.A. "Tony" Rojas
Executive Director & President

Macon Water Authority
790 Second Street * P.O. Box 108
Macon, GA 31202-0108
(478) 464-5600 * FAX (478) 750-2007
Visit Us @ www.maconwater.org

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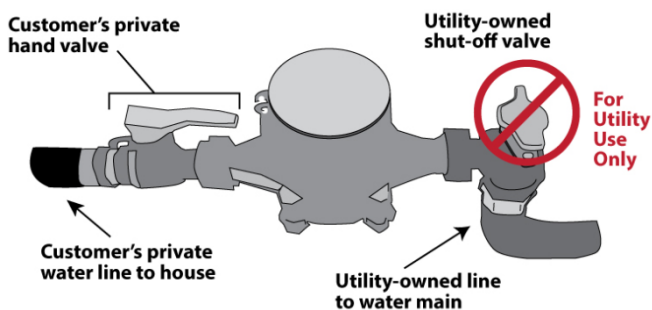
How to Locate a Leak at Your Home or Property

For MWA customers, the water line running to your home is "metered" for accountability and billing purposes. A leak on your side on the homeowners service line can be very costly. Yet, even a very small leak can be found through trying a few simple techniques that can save money by preventing water loss and property damage, which may result from a water line break or pipe burst. Here are some leak detection steps that may help.

Customer Responsibility

The Macon Water Authority maintains and is responsible for the water line in the street, also known as the main, the line from the main to the water meter, the maintenance of the valve, the meter box and the meter box lid. Any repairs past the meter on the customers property is part of the customers private service line and plumbing and is the responsibility of the customer for maintaining and repairing. There should be a private shut off valve on the customers side of the meter if the customer wishes to turn off water to the home. Installation of a shut off valve on the customers side of the meter is the responsibility of the customer and not the MWA.

For Illustrative purposes only



Hot Water Tanks

Check the Pressure Relief Valve on the hot water tank. Sometimes these valves are plumbed directly into a drain and may be leaking without your knowledge. If you can't remove the drain pipe to check for a leak, listen for a hissing sound that could indicate it may be leaking.

Toilets

Check the toilet for leaks by removing the top off the tank and listening very closely. If you hear any hissing at all, try to locate where it is coming from. If you locate the area where the leak is coming from, assess it and determine if you can fix it. If you can't, then call a plumber.

The Meter Line

1. If the toilets are fine, check the line running from the meter to the house. While this may sound difficult, you can save money if you can locate the leak for the plumber.

- If you know you have a shut-off valve by the house, shut it off temporarily; then, check the meter by removing the lid and watching the dial on top of the meter. (Note: the MWA has a link to help titled, "How to read your MWA Water Meter.")
- If you can't see the meter head, try digging around because they sometimes have dirt or grass covering the top of them. Once you locate it and the valve is turned off by the house, watch the meter to see if it is turning. If it is still turning, then the leak is between the meter and the house.
- At this point, walk the area between the meter and the shut-off valve. Look for signs of a leak, such as soft muddy areas or grass that is greener than the rest or growing much faster than in other areas. If you see such an obvious sign, call the plumber or assess if you can make a repair yourself.

2. If you have the valve shut off at the house and the meter has stopped moving, then the leak is somewhere in the house. Try additional techniques (some noted below) to try to locate the problem.

Hose Bibs

Try to locate a leak by using the hose bibs, or spigots, by the house. This will require you to locate all the hose bibs on the outside of your home or property. (Hose bibs are the pipes that you hook your hoses to, in case you were unsure!) Usually an average residence has one hose bib in the front and one in the back, but be sure to find every one that you have and listen carefully.

- Once you have located them, take a screwdriver, preferably one long enough to give yourself room to work, and put the metal tip of the screwdriver directly on the metal part of the hose bib. Then, put your thumb knuckle on the top/end of the handle on the screwdriver. When you place your knuckle holding that end of the screwdriver to your ear, the sound will travel directly to your ear drum. The idea is for the solid screwdriver to work like a stethoscope. This works for most metal valves, as well.

- Listen carefully for any sound emitting from the hose bib. If you hear anything at all, remember where it is (perhaps mark it with chalk), and go to the next one. If the sound emitted gets louder at any of the other hose bibs, then the leak is closer to that particular unit. Note that and contact your plumber. By giving plumbers this information, you will save them time in finding the leak, which in turn saves you money.
- If you survey all of the hose bibs and still find no sound, go into the house and follow the same process – holding the screwdriver from your ear – to the house fittings, such as faucets in sinks, shower valves, the washer, etc. If you are still not sure, contact a plumber.