

HAVE YOU GOT A HIDDEN GUZZLER?

Faulty appliances, fixtures and fittings can leak water, leading to a higher-than-expected bill and big headache. Here are the most common household water issues we see, and what to look out for.

FLEXI HOSE \$

A burst flexi hose can flood your house and waste a lot of water. They should be inspected regularly and replaced when needed. You can turn off the water before going on holiday to minimise the risk.

DISHWASHER/WASHING MACHINE \$

Check if there is water under any appliances connected to the plumbing. Look for warped or discoloured cupboards, bench tops or walls - a sign that water is leaking from somewhere close by.

POOL AUTO TOP-UP \$ \$ \$ \$

If your pool has auto top-up, check it's not topping up continuously. Also, check your pool for leaks. A leaky pool can lose more than 10,000 litres per hour!

UNDERGROUND PIPEWORK \$ \$ \$ \$

The pipe between your water meter and house or to a garden tap can leak from ground movement, tree roots or rocks and rubble. Metal pipes can rust, plastic pipes can split, and junction fittings (where the pipe changes direction) can fail.

Important to know: Often there will be no visual sign of an underground leak, because the water is draining away into the soil or disappearing via a crack in a stormwater or sewer pipe. You may need to engage a leak detection specialist who will use specialised equipment to spot leaks.

SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEM \$ \$ \$

A faulty pressure and temperature relief (PTR) or frost protection valve can cause an expensive leak. Check the unit and associated pipework.

SHOWER \$

A leak dripping from the shower can lose between one and ten buckets of water a week. A leak in the pipes behind the wall can cause more water loss.

TOILET \$ \$ \$ \$

Leaking toilets are one of the most common causes of spikes in water usage. To check yours, drop some food dye into the water tank and see if the colour drips into the toilet bowl.

WATER TANK \$ \$ \$ \$

Water tanks which are plumbed to the laundry and toilets can top up with mains water when they are low. Check that the auto top-up valve is functioning correctly.

HOT WATER SYSTEM \$ \$ \$

A faulty pressure relief valve, rust or other damage can cause an expensive leak. Check for leaks from the unit and associated pipework.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM \$ \$ \$ \$

Irrigation systems with an automatic timer can get stuck in the 'on' position, or the fittings can fail causing water to flow continuously. A previous owner may have installed a system that you don't even use. Inspect the yard and remember that leaks can be hidden underground.