

How to do a stop tap test

External leaks

To determine whether you have a leak on your service pipe between the stop tap and the water meter, follow the steps below. The test needs to be done when the water supply is turned off for a short time, so you'll either need to notify staff or do it during a period when it will cause minimum disruption.



Step 1

First locate your meter. The main meter is normally in the footpath outside/close to the boundary of the property. Open the meter chamber and bail out any surface water that may have collected in the chamber.



Step 2

Next locate your internal stop tap. This is normally where the service pipe enters the building. Close the stop tap by turning it clockwise.

Taps can become stuck after long periods of disuse. If the tap is difficult to turn, do not force it as it might break. You'll need to call a plumber for assistance.

Step 3

If the meter dial is still moving after the stop tap has been closed, you have a leak. To understand the volume of loss, first record the meter reading.

Step 4

Keep the stop tap closed and take a second reading one hour later. Subtract the first reading from the second to give you the volume of water lost per hour from any underground leakage.

Internal Leaks

To check for leaks inside your premises, follow these simple steps:

1. Make sure all appliances that use water are turned off, but leave the internal stop tap open.
2. Locate and read the meter prior to a period of no water use, such as overnight when there is no one on the premises.
3. Read the meter again in the morning.
4. If the reading is the same, there is no internal leakage.
5. If the reading differs, you could have a leak or a faulty appliance. To locate the leak, check internal pipe joints, appliances, fittings and warning pipes. Some leaks can be difficult to find, such as cisterns that leak into the toilet bowl.

If you suspect you have a leak on your underground pipework or internally, we can provide a bespoke Leakage Find & Fix service tailored to suit your business.

To find out more, email us at leakagefindandfix@wave-utilities.co.uk with a brief description of the problem, business name and address, contact name and telephone number and we will get in touch to discuss with you.