

Get a grip, fix that drip

The toilet leak: it's like an open faucet, only you don't see it.

One leaky toilet can waste an average of 200 gallons a day. At EBMUD, we believe that anyone who is willing to check their household for water leaks is willing to fix them. And we want to help. This spring, EBMUD is asking you to help us make the most of the water that Mother Nature gives us by checking your toilets for a leak and fixing it if necessary.

But leaks are sneaky. Your system can leak without your knowledge. Follow this easy guide for the tool-free way to find and fix a leaky toilet or view our fix-it video on ebmud.com.

Look for the blue – EBMUD offers free dye tablets that can help you detect a toilet leak. When placed in the toilet tank, the dye will expose flapper leaks by allowing blue water to move from the tank to the bowl without a flush. Food coloring also works for this.

Take off the lid – If a leak is detected, take off the toilet tank lid and place it flat on the floor. Be sure not to lean it against a wall as it could fall and shatter.

Stop the water – Shut off the water valve from the wall to the toilet and flush the toilet to remove the water from the toilet tank. Use a cloth to sop up as much tank water as possible. Remember, this water came directly from the pipe and is not waste water, so don't worry about soiling your hands.

Ditch that flapper – At the bottom of the tank you will find the flapper valve, usually semi-circular, that lifts when the toilet is flushed. The flapper should pop off easily. Buy a new flapper valve that matches the old one.

Scrub that crud – Using a scouring pad, clean the area where a new valve will be put.

Attach the new flapper – The new flapper should be as easy to pop on as the old one was to remove.

Refill the toilet – Turn on the water valve and fill the tank. Then do another blue tablet test to ensure the new flapper does not leak tank water into the bowl. Replace the tank lid and call your water conservation day a success.

For your free dye tablets, visit EBMUD at 375 Eleventh Street, Oakland, CA, 94607.



We know you love creeks. We love creeks too.

In some areas of the East Bay, pipe breaks can cause treated water to flow into nearby creeks. Water discharges into creeks are a challenge that EBMUD is working diligently to address, and we need your help.

EBMUD uses chloramine to disinfect drinking water, because it lasts longer in the distribution system than chlorine. As stewards of the environment, we want to make sure the habitats are safe while also preserving our drinking water. One of the biggest hurdles EBMUD faces in stopping leaks from flowing into creeks is the lag time between when the leak starts and when it's reported to us.

That's where you come in. Help us protect our creeks by letting EBMUD know as soon as you see water flowing from a hydrant or a broken pipe. Add EBMUD's water emergency hotline – 866-403-2683 – to your contact list today.

Follow our lead: fix those leaks.

The East Bay – can't beat the views, the ocean air and the diversity out there. But one thing this seismically-active area is not great for is an aging water system. It's no surprise that old pipes leak and break. More than half of EBMUD's pipes, like those of many urban areas across the country, are over 50 years old. When they break, those leaky pipes waste water.


Since 2009, EBMUD has been using a new technology to prevent catastrophic breaks by detecting breaks before they occur. These data-logging devices are located throughout the East Bay in areas with recent pipe break clusters, in areas with known ground movement, or areas that are prone to landslides. The devices measure sound to note

where a leak has occurred. With this advanced warning, EBMUD is better equipped than ever to stop small leaks before they become huge problems.

We replace leaky pipes in order of need. Pipe segments that break the most often move to the top of the replacement list. Out of 4,200 miles of pipeline in the EBMUD service area, we have identified 100 miles of pipe that should be replaced. With every year that passes, that list grows and the need for greater investment in our underground infrastructure increases.

EBMUD repairs about 10 miles of pipe each year. By proactively repairing pipes before they break, we prevent water outages and save ratepayer dollars.

Stretch our supply
Please cut back 10%

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EBMUD Mission Statement

To manage the natural resources with which the District is entrusted; to provide reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services at fair and reasonable rates for the people of the East Bay; and to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.