I don't hear it running...

If your toilet was leaking water you would know because it would be running, right?

Maybe not.

Just because you don't hear your toilet running doesn't mean there is not a leak.

Toilets are the leading cause of household water leaks. A leaking toilet can waste anywhere from a few gallons to over 100 gallons per toilet per day! Leaks are easy to detect and relatively easy to repair.

Water..
A Precious Resource

Water is a basic building block of life, yet we often take it for granted. As water users, we must preserve our water supply so it will be available today, and for generations to come.

Water conservation allows us to use water more efficiently and reduce water waste. That includes limiting water waste due to leaking fixtures. Did you know fixing even a small toilet leak can save you $50.00 or more per year through lower water and sewer bills!

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Water Conservation

Are Leaking Toilets Wasting Water and Costing You Money?

City of Kerman
Save Water - Save Money

How to Diagnose and Fix a Leaking Toilet.

LEAK DETECTION

You can test your toilet for leaks by following the simple procedure below. Use toilet leak detection tablets or a few drops of food coloring.

Step 1 Carefully remove cover from top of toilet tank.

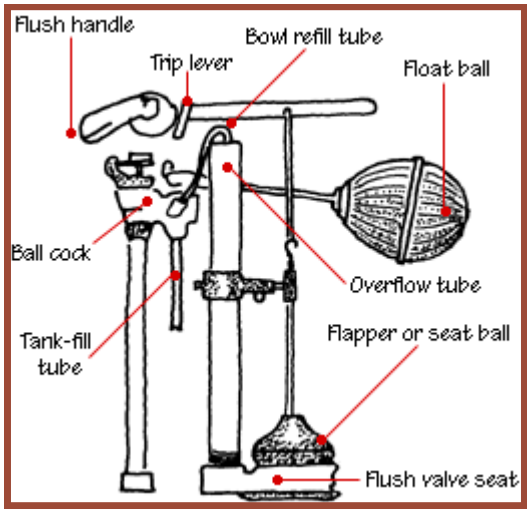
Step 2 Drop leak detection tablets or food coloring into tank and replace cover.

Step 3 Wait 10 - 15 minutes.

Step 4 Check the toilet bowl. If the water in the bowl shows any color, your toilet has a leak.

Now it's time to repair it.

Diagram of a Typical Toilet



FIXING YOUR TOILET LEAK

Now that you know your toilet has a leak, here are some ways to fix different problems. Use the toilet diagram shown above for help.

- **Adjust float arm**. Remove the tank lid and lift up on the float arm. If water stops flowing into the tank, the float ball isn't high enough to lower the valve plunger in the ballcock assembly (the mechanism for filling water tanks), Adjust the connection to the inlet float valve or bend the arm slightly to move the ball away from the tank side.

- **Check to see if your float ball is leaking.** If more than half of the float is underwater, it may have a leak. Turn the water supply valve clockwise and flush the toilet to empty it. Unscrew the float and shake it. If you hear water inside, replace the float ball.

- **Replace the flapper valve.** The flapper valve can become worn or distorted so that it does not seal the tank. Remove the flapper and replace it with a new one.

- **Replace the flapper seat valve.** If the valve seat is pitted or cracked it needs to be replaced. Kits are available for this purpose. For this repair, follow the directions included with the flapper valve/seat replacement kit.

- **If there is still a leak, empty the tank again**. Remove the screws that hold the float arm and its attached linkage to the intake valve. Replace the washer at the base of the plunger and the washer or packing that fits in the groove on the plunger body. As an alternative, entire ballcock assemblies are available in economical replacement kits. They come completely assembled and only need to be installed in the tank. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.