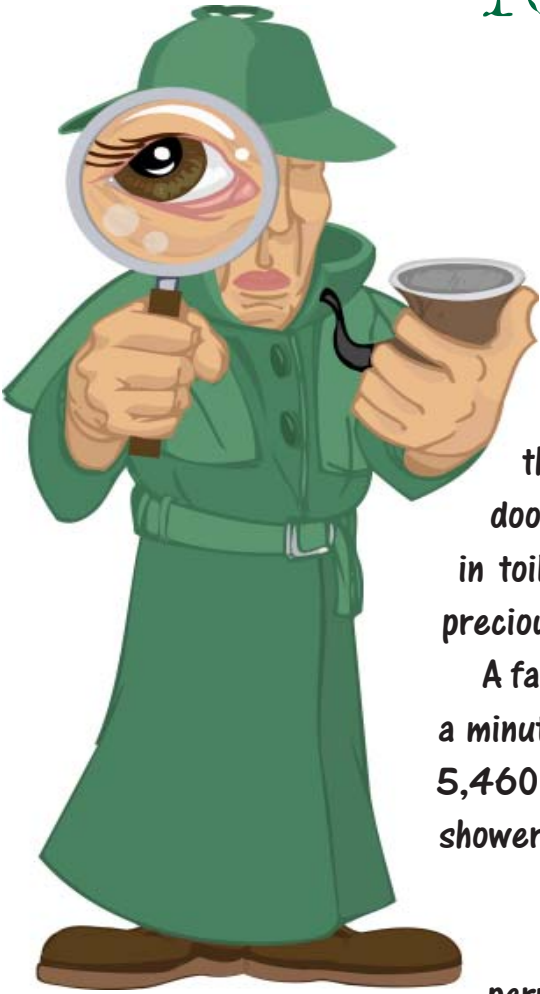


You don't have to be a **DETECTIVE** to find waterleaks!



There's something sneaky going on at your house...and it is wasting valuable water...and money. Do you know what it is? **LEAKS**...tiny drips of water from faucets in the kitchen or in the bathrooms...or from shower heads...or maybe from an outdoor faucet. There are also leaks that you can't see...silent leaks in toilets... that are robbing your home of hundreds of gallons of precious water. That's just like flushing water down the drain!

A faucet drip or invisible toilet leak that totals only two tablespoons a minute adds up to 15 gallons a day. That's 105 gallons a week and 5,460 wasted gallons of water a year! If you see a leaking faucet or shower, tell your parents so it can be fixed immediately!

Here's a detective project you can do with your parent's permission to find out if the toilets in your home have silent leaks...

1. Remove the tank lid (don't worry about this water...it is clean until it enters the bowl).
2. Add a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet (available for just this testing purpose) to the tank to turn it a different color. Put the tank lid back on.
3. Wait about 30 minutes or so and look in the bowl. If the water has colored, there's a leak. If the water is clear, the water is not leaking from the tank to the bowl.

If you do discover a leak, there are a number of possible causes; often the culprit is a rubber flapper that needs replacing or a failing filling mechanism. In many cases, the cost to complete the repair will be under \$10 -- certainly much cheaper in the long run than paying for all that wasted water!

Remember, slow drips of water can add up pretty quickly. A toilet that keeps "running" after you flush it or a sink that drips after it is turned off can waste thousands of gallons a water a year. If the drip is hot water, you are wasting energy, too! Find household leaks and fix them immediately. Be good water "stewards"...use this precious natural resource wisely.

The water we conserve today can serve us tomorrow!

