



Water Leak Detection & Repair Guide

Helping customers identify, manage, and repair water leaks responsibly

Have You Received a green Leak Tag or High Water Bill?

If you've received a green **leak notification tag** or noticed **higher-than-normal water usage**, you may have a leak on your property. This guide helps you **identify the issue, understand who is responsible, and take appropriate next steps**.

Why it matters: Early leak detection reduces property damage, water waste, and unexpected charges.

A green rectangular form with a white circular hole at the top. It contains text for "WATER DISTRICT 49" with an address and phone number. Below this is a section titled "IMPORTANT NOTICE" with fields for Date, Customer #, Name, and Address. A list of checkboxes includes "Please Call Office", "Check for Leaks", "Found Leak on Your Side of Meter", "Repair Must be Done by Your Plumber", "Meter is Now Locked", and "Bill Must be Paid before Meter is Unlocked". A table shows "First Due Amount" as \$25.00, "Lock Fee" as \$25.00, and "Unlock Fee***" as \$25.00. The "Total Due" is \$75.00. There is a "Comments:" section at the bottom with a line for writing.

WATER DISTRICT 49
415 SW 10th Street
206.242.8535

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Date _____ Customer # _____
Name _____
Address _____

☐ Please Call Office
☐ Check for Leaks
☐ Found Leak on Your Side of Meter
Repair Must be Done by Your Plumber
☐ Meter is Now Locked
☐ Bill Must be Paid before Meter is Unlocked

First Due Amount	\$ 25.00
Lock Fee	\$25.00
Unlock Fee***	\$25.00
Total Due	\$ 75.00

Comments: _____



Who Is Responsible for the Leak?

Understanding ownership is essential before making repairs.

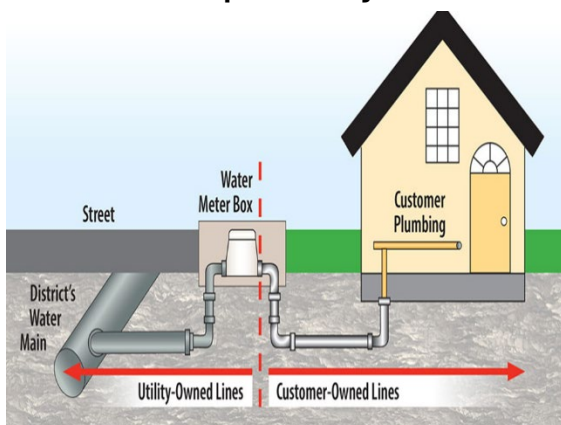
District Responsibility

Water District No. 49's responsibility ends at the **water meter or meter setter nut** (depending on installation date or repair history).

Customer Responsibility

The customer owns and maintains the **service line from the meter to the residence**, including all plumbing inside the home.

➡ **All repairs beyond the meter are the customer's responsibility.**





Common Signs of a Water Leak

- **Rising Water Bill**

A persistent or large leak often causes an unexplained increase in usage. Water District No. 49 uses staged leak identification during meter readings. If you are concerned, call **206-242-8535**.

- **Water Meter Movement**

Turn off all water fixtures. If the meter dial continues to move, a leak is present on your property.

- **Wet Areas or Sinkholes**

Saturated soil, puddles, or ground settling may indicate an underground leak.

- **Discolored Water**

Rust, sediment, or debris may enter through damaged pipes.

- **Low Water Pressure**

Substantial leaks reduce pressure throughout the home.

- **Unusual Noises**

Hissing, bubbling, or gurgling sounds may signal a leak.



How to Shut Off Your Water

Knowing how to shut off your water is critical if a leak is suspected.

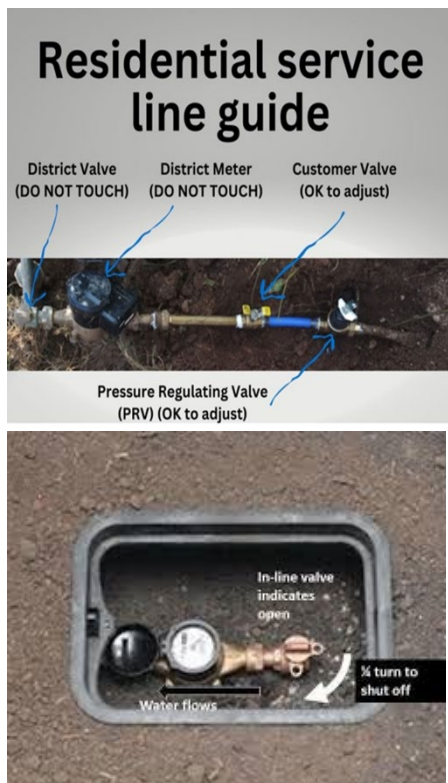
If You Have a Private Shutoff

Use the customer-owned shutoff valve located near the home or just after the meter.



If You Do Not Have a Shutoff

You may need to shut off water at the meter.



⚠ Important Emergency Notice

All customers should know the location of the **main water shutoff valve inside their home**,



especially during emergencies such as a broken interior pipe.

- To have water shut off at the meter, call **206-242-8535 — available 24 hours a day.**
- **Do not tamper with the water meter or District assets.** Unauthorized operation may result in:
 - A **\$100 tamper fee**, plus
 - Repair costs, labor, materials, and permitting.

 **Strongly recommended:** Install a customer-owned shutoff valve just after the meter if one does not exist.

Repairing Your Service Line

Because the service line belongs to the customer, repair decisions are yours. Options include:

- Hiring a licensed plumber
- Performing the repair yourself
- Working with friends or family



Depending on pipe material, leak size, and accessibility, you may choose to **repair a section** or **replace the entire service line**.

Helpful Repair Resources

Disclaimer: This information is provided for **educational purposes only**. Water District No. 49 does not assume responsibility for repairs, materials, or purchases made by customers.

<https://www.savingwater.org/>: Visit SavingWater.org for relevant information about finding and discovering leaks, including videos and conservation tips.



- **Replacing Copper with PEX (includes setter connection)**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoPAqfVNvlo>



- **Service Line Repair Overview**



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_wBwmiiLYQ

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Common Connection Types & Parts

Below are examples of common customer-side connections to District fittings. District staff are available to explain **ownership and parts needed for connection**.

Questions?

- **Call 206-242-8535**
- **Email- info@wd49.com**



District-Owned Meter Connection

Example

1" Angle Meter Stop × 1" Female Iron Pipe (FIP)

Typical customer connection may include:

- 1" Galvanized Male Iron Pipe (MIP)
- 1" Brass 90-degree elbow (FIP × FIP)



(Image placement: Galvanized, brass elbow, and connected example)

Copper Service Line Example

1" Angle Meter Stop × 1" Copper Tube Size (CTS) Compression

- Uses standard 1" CTS compression fittings for copper service lines



(Image placement: CTS compression fitting and installed connection)

Need Help?

Water District No. 49 staff can assist with:

- Identifying District-owned equipment
- Confirming connection sizes and thread types
- General leak response guidance



CONTACT US TODAY!

 **Call: 206-242-8535**

Email- info@wd49.com

WWW.WD49.COM



Water District No. 49

Committed to water stewardship, safety, and
customer support