



12 Industrial Park Circle, Rochester, NY 14624

Crofton Perdue Associates

Diagnosing/Repairing Water Line Leaks

In the event that a homeowner suspects there could be a municipal water line leaking, there are a few ways to start this process. Is water coming up out of the ground on the exterior, is water coming up through the concrete floor on the interior, is the sump pump running all the time, are the basement walls wet? All these issues could be a result of a water line leaking or could be a ground/rain water problem. We would need to start by visiting the site to qualify this issue to make an educated determination if it might be a water line leaking or rain/ground water.

If we suspect a municipal water line leak, we would typically start by getting a sample of the water and getting it tested for fluoride. The lab usually takes 4-5 business days to get the sample tested. Monroe County Water Authority adds approx. 0.7 Mg/L of fluoride to the domestic water supply. If the test comes back at anything under 0.4 Mg/L, it is likely ground water and typically higher than 0.4 Mg/L "might" be domestic water. If the results come back at 0.6 Mg/L, it's extremely likely that it will be a municipal water line leak.

In most HOA type communities, there are underground water main 4"-12" in diameter, 1.5-2" feed lines off main and then individual 3/4"-1" supply lines to each house/unit. Sometimes these water lines run around the exterior of the house and sometimes they run under the concrete floor of each unit. We need to determine WHERE specifically water might be leaking from. We might even have to consult with our leak locating specialist to run tests on the individual lines, feed lines or potentially the main lines. This could take several days to a week to even schedule this and the testing usually takes a day or two. At this point, IF we are able to determine WHAT line is leaking and WHERE, we can then come up with a scope of work. It gets tricky when there are multiple units per building as I need to gain access to all units to come up with a game plan.

In the event, water is bubbling up through the ground on the exterior of the house, we would usually excavate right where the water is presenting itself. Now, not always is the actual leaking water line in this exact area!! If the water line is on a hill, water could be running downhill, underground, and surfacing 10 feet away or even up to 50-100 feet away, we have seen this before.

Proper diagnosis could take weeks depending on the situation.

This serves as an informational document only. For any concerns about a water leak, reach out to Crofton Perdue Directly for the next steps.