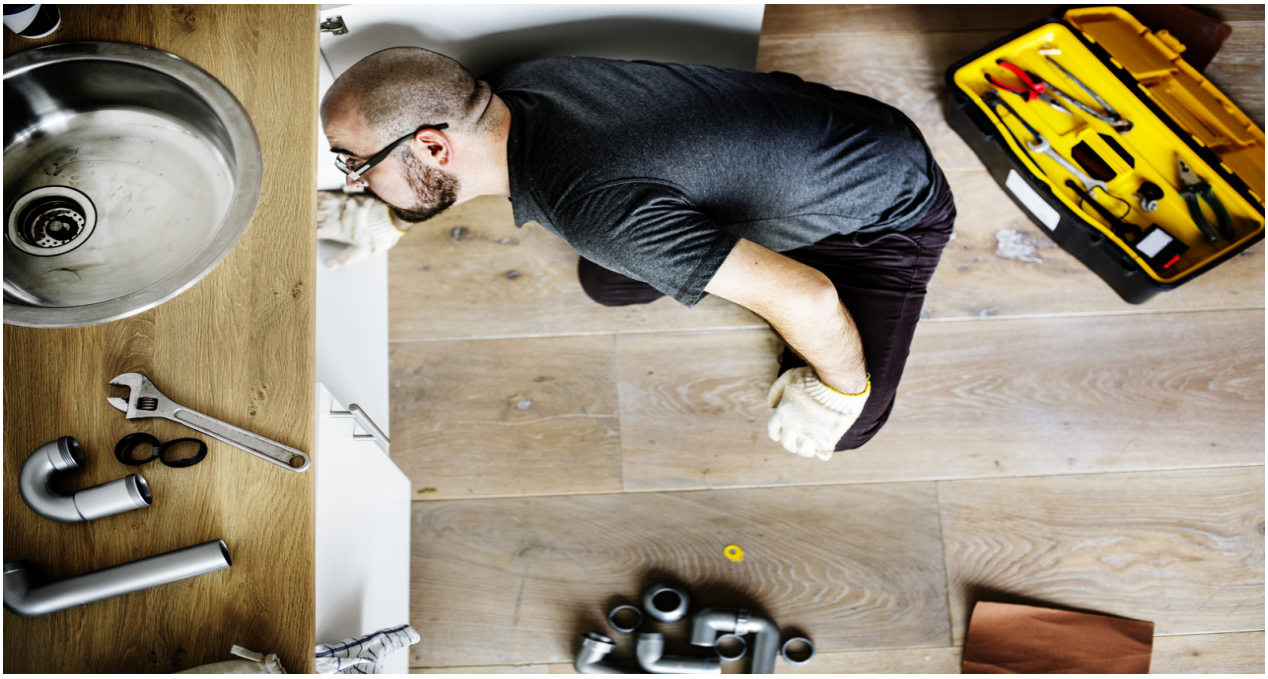

On-Time Plumbing Explains Winter Leak Checks and Slab Leak Warning Signs

October 29, 2026

SHELBYVILLE, TN - October 29, 2026 -
As winter approaches, On-Time Plumbing is outlining how water-use checks can flag hidden leaks and which signs may point to a slab leak. Routine seasonal plumbing maintenance covers visible pipes and fixtures, but supply lines beneath a concrete floor remain out of sight. Changes in usage are often the first clue.

Distinguishing a slab leak from water leaks elsewhere in the home is the first step toward choosing the right repair. A slab leak involves supply lines beneath the concrete foundation, while other leaks occur at fixtures or inside walls. Leaks can also develop above ceilings or in basements.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense program reports that household leaks can waste over 9,300 gallons annually. 9% of homes have leaks that waste at least 50 gallons daily. Common culprits include worn toilet flappers and dripping faucets. Other leaking valves can also waste water.

Winter offers a clearer view of indoor water habits because outdoor watering is usually minimal. EPA?s Fix a

Leak Week guidance notes that a family of four using more than 12,000 gallons a month in winter may have a leak. A bill that climbs without a change in household water-use habits warrants a closer look.

EPA recommends simple checks first. Reading the water meter before and after two hours without water use can show whether water is escaping. Add food coloring to the toilet tank and wait ten minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, it indicates a leak; flush afterward to prevent staining.

This Old House lists running-water sounds with no fixtures in use, wet spots, low water pressure, and warm floor areas as common signs of a slab leak. The publication notes that warm spots typically follow the path of a leaking hot water pipe.

Leaks elsewhere in a home tend to leave different clues. On-Time Plumbing notes that ceiling stains typically trace to a bathroom or kitchen on the floor above; an upstairs laundry area can also be the source. Wall moisture can surface away from the damaged pipe, and basement dampness may be condensation.

Accurately locating the leak helps technicians identify which pipe needs repair, according to the company. Technicians start with the reported symptoms, then narrow the search using equipment matched to the suspected location. The goal is to confirm the exact source before opening any surface, including a wall or floor.

Acoustic listening devices amplify the sound of water escaping from pipes behind walls or beneath flooring. They can also be used to listen for leaks in underground pipes.

Thermal imaging cameras reveal temperature differences caused by hidden moisture, and moisture meters measure dampness in drywall and flooring. Hydrostatic pressure testing checks isolated piping sections for pressure loss to help narrow down the leak?s location.

Once a leak is confirmed, the repair depends on pipe material, damage location, and the surrounding system. A localized slab leak repair may involve opening the concrete to replace the damaged pipe section. Where the layout allows, rerouting can bypass the leaking line with new piping through accessible walls, leaving the damaged section out of service.

The company says repaired lines are pressure tested before water service is restored. Its team assesses homes with widespread corrosion or multiple failures for full repiping. They also note that hidden leaks can cause structural damage, mold growth, flooring deterioration, and higher water bills long before a visible sign appears.

On-Time Plumbing is a veteran- and family-owned company that serves residential and commercial customers across Middle Tennessee. The team operates under license number 4683, holds gas certification, and handles repairs, water heater installations, and system maintenance, including leak diagnostics. The company is based in Shelbyville, TN.

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On-Time Plumbing

On-Time Plumbing proudly serves Shelbyville, TN & the surrounding areas with dependable residential & commercial plumbing solutions. We bring strong family values, professionalism, & a commitment to customer satisfaction in every job.

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