

# AIR IT IS!

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By Nathan Wissenbach

When receiving a call from a mobile home park with a water leak, I schedule an appointment with them to help locate the leak. Upon arrival, I ask if they are able to isolate sections of the park to try to identify what section of the park the leak is in. If they are unable to isolate sections of the park off, we begin at the first home listening to each service line. If they have a curb stop, we will listen to that, and go from home to home until we hear the leak. Most of the time we can locate where the leak is located. However, if we are not able to find the leak one technique is adding air in the lines.

When using this technique, we must go to every home and shut off their service lines. This prevents air from being pushed into the homes, which can cause damage to their hot water heaters. Once all the home service lines are off, we would proceed to the last home on the distribution line and install an air jack so you can plug in an air compressor. There is a service line coming from the ground up to the home. A ball valve would be connected to a T coupler, and then connected to a second ball valve, and hooked back into their service line. A ball valve would be run off the T coupler, which would then reduce it down to the air jack and enable you to hook the air compressor up to the line. Once this is installed, hook up your air compressor and add 5 pounds more air pressure than your water pressure in the system. This technique can take a couple minutes to a couple hours. Once the air hits where the leak is, the air will want to come to the surface, which will push the water to the surface showing your leak.

This technique works because air always wants to come up to the surface, and water always wants to go down in the ground. That's why leaks won't surface. This technique can be risky because you are adding more pressure in your water system. That is why it's important to only add 5 to 8 pounds more pressure to your system. This is a good technique to find a stubborn leak in your water system that you just cannot find. 💧💧💧



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