

Where to begin?

Shopping for a water leak detection system can be a daunting task. There are so many options and so much is at stake. This buyer's guide can help you make the right choices, by informing you of your options and by pointing out some important facts that not all leak detector manufacturers will tell you.

Start Smart!

It's 2023. Technology is everywhere, including in water leak detection systems. We try to point out to shoppers, today's leak detection systems can alert you to a leak and they can even automatically shut off the water, immediately. Avoid older, outdated leak detectors that can not notify you on your phone. A beeping leak detector is no use to you if you are not at home, or if you sleep through it. Choose a smart leak detector, or better yet one that is smart, can notify you in many ways, and can even shut off the water automatically.

Don't Just Detect, Protect!

Look for leak detectors that are part of a line of products that include smart water valve products. Because if the leak was detected, but there is no one there to manually turn off the water, the water damage is only getting worse.

No WiFi Worries!

Many smart devices connect to your WiFi. WiFi is great but you may have found that it does not cover your entire home or property. You may have experienced or heard about issues from WiFi devices like security risks or your home network being bogged down. Weigh the apparent benefits or convenience of WiFi devices against your particular concerns or risks.

No WiFi, No Internet, No Power, No Problem!

YoLink water leak detectors do not rely on your WiFi to work, and they can even be paired to activate sirens and to shut off the water automatically. Even if the internet & WiFi is down, even if the power is out. If tropical or winter storms, extended power outages, frozen pipes and flooding are concerns, consider products from YoLink.

Longest Range, by Far!

You may not have a sprawling estate or a farm, but you can still benefit from smart devices that have long range. YoLink's LoRa-based, long range (up to ¼ mile open-air) and low-power wireless technology means you have great coverage throughout your home or business, and even on other floors – attics and basements and even separate garages are no exception. Avoid smart products that use Bluetooth or other short-range wireless technology. Even WiFi can struggle to penetrate floors and walls, let alone get to your separate garage or storage building.

Plan Ahead

New to "smart" technology, or just beginning to make your home or business smart? When choosing a leak detection system, consider how it might grow or expand. Do you have a larger home, do you have several outbuildings, or a home and business that you'd like to combine into one app? Is it appealing to know that you can add smart security devices like motion sensors and smart locks, or temperature sensors, smoke detectors and other smart products later? Would you prefer to have less apps, as you add more smart things in the future? Avoid brands that do not have a broad ecosystem of smart devices. Avoid products that might limit you to 10 or less devices, or require a different hub if you want to buy a temperature sensor after you buy a leak sensor from the same brand. Plan ahead and purchase from a brand that can grow with you in the future.

Cost Considerations

The initial investment should be a big part of your decision, but consider cost of ownership, too. Avoid products that require subscriptions or other reoccurring fees. Consider the cost of batteries. Some smart sensor batteries need to be replaced several times a year. There is the cost of batteries as well as the inconvenience and/or labor time associated with replacing the batteries. Look at smart sensors from YoLink, that can go from two to five years between battery changes.

Make a List

Not sure where you need leak detection? Consider placing a leak sensor at each of these locations:

- Toilets
- Under sinks
- On the floor near tubs and showers
- Water heaters
- Laundry machines
- Dishwashers
- Ice makers, and fridges with ice makers
- Sump pumps
- At areas that are subjected to flooding such as basements and below-grade doors
- Floor drains
- Air conditioners
- Aquariums
- Hot tubs (within environmental range of the sensor)

Water Leak Protection System Buyer's Guide

Getting Started: Hubs & Leak Sensors



YoLink Hub YS1603
SpeakerHub YS1604



Water Leak Sensor 1



Water Leak Sensor 2



Water Leak Sensor 3



Water Level Monitoring
Sensor

Step 1: Choose a hub

YoLink sensors require one hub with an internet connection for full functionality (for the app to work, etc.) Our original [YoLink Hub](#) works with an ethernet and/or WiFi connection (2.4GHz WiFi, only). Our [SpeakerHub](#) is an audio hub that can play alarm or other attention-getting sounds and it can even read out your alerts in clear text-to-speech messages. The SpeakerHub requires a 2.4GHz WiFi, only, connection.

Step 2: Choose leak sensors

Our most-popular [Water Leak Sensor 1](#) is a “puck” style sensor that is optimized for both dripping and pooling/flooding water. Place it behind a toilet, under a sink, or next to any potential source of a water leak or flood. The Water Leak Sensor 1 boasts 5 years between battery changes. It is also completely waterproof, so there is no concern about it being damaged by water. Avoid water leak detectors that can not be submerged and/or are one-time use, only.

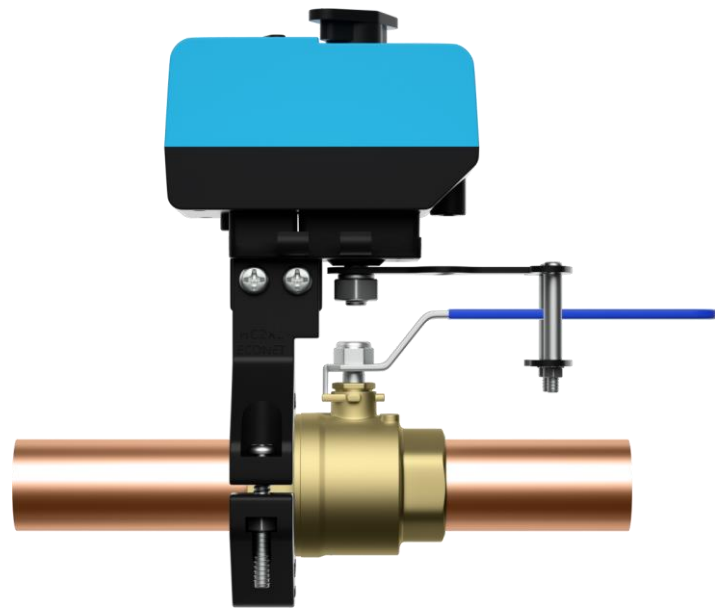
Our [Water Leak Sensor 2](#) is a “rope” style sensor. The rope is water-sensitive. A rope sensor may be more appropriate for confined spaces such under or adjacent a dishwasher. A rope sensor may also be used to encircle a water heater or sump pump pit or be used to create a defined region of water detection. Additional cables can be added. The Water Leak Sensor has an integral sounder alarm, that is optional to use. It is not waterproof and it can not be submerged. Battery life is 2 to 5 years, depending on if the sounder is used, etc.

The [Water Leak Sensor 3](#) is ideal for very-precise location water detection (or monitoring). The probe be inserted in small spaces, such as in an air conditioner condensate discharge pipe, in a floor drain. It can also be placed in a laundry machine water drain pipe, in a way that can provide early warning of back-ups before the water spills onto the floor. This sensor can also be used to monitor water levels of tanks and other containers, alerting you to high or low water conditions.

The [Water Level Monitoring Sensor](#), with float switch, is ideal for use in sump pump pits. It has many other practical applications for monitoring water and other liquid levels.

Water Leak Protection System Buyer's Guide

Water Shut-Off, Alarms & Remote Controls



Bulldog Valve Robot



Motorized Valves
Smart Motorized Valves



Smart
Valve Controllers



Smart Sirens



Smart Fobs

Step 3: Select a smart water control device

The [Bulldog Valve Robot](#) is one of our most popular water control products. It requires only a Phillips screwdriver to mount on your existing quarter-turn ball-valve. It is a bolt-on product that works with your existing valve. The valve must be in good working order. The Bulldog can be a good option for you if you do not want a permanently-installed solution or you wish to take it with you when you move.

We offer several [motorized valve](#) options. A motorized valve is a superior choice to any bolt-on product, and it is popular for commercial and industrial applications. It is a permanently installed device that is likely to give you trouble-free operation for decades. We offer several models, including an integrated (one-piece) [Smart Motorized Valve](#).

Our Bulldog Valve Robot and non-smart motorized valves require a [smart valve controller](#). Several valve controllers are offered, including one with a 10-year lithium battery and one with optional plug-in power from an AC outlet or external 12VDC power supply. All batteries are replaceable.

Step 4: Choose one or more audible alarms

Audible alarms, such as our indoor Siren Alarm can be configured in the app to alert you to a leak detection. Also, a unique feature in leak detectors, Control-D2D device-to-device pairing can be used to pair one sensor to one or more other sensors, so that they will activate automatically (without internet and without power). Pair your leak sensors to your valve control device, as well as to your siren, and rest assured that your [water leak protection system](#) will function when needed!

Step 5: Choose optional remote controls

You can control your valve in many ways, including from your phone, from your voice (with Alexa or Google), as part of an automation or integration with 3rd-party applications like IFTTT and Home Assistant. You can also control it with one of our smart fobs. You can directly control it using Control-D2D or you can control it in an automation or scene via settings in the app.

Step 6: Choose an optional management service

Ask us about Raedius Web Console, if you are responsible for large systems, such as apartment building or condominium building water leak detection & shut-off systems.