



If you experience a high utility bill, you may want to consider the following:

- Frequent watering of your lawn or flowers
- Frequent washing of cars at home
- Leaky faucets
- An increase in the number of people in your house
- Plumbing problems
- A toilet that continues to run after flushing
- Silent toilet leaks
- Broken water lines (check your lawn for wet spots)
- Spinning water meter indicator

MOISTURE IS MONEY! 60 drops per minute equates to 192 gallons each month – almost 5 loads of laundry!

Use your senses to save you cents:

LOOK – Do you see any dripping faucets?

LISTEN – Does your toilet make a noise or hiss when no one is using it?

FEEL – Can you feel moisture around any pipes under sinks? Some leaks can be stopped by simply tightening fittings.

CHECK FOR TOILET LEAKS

Listen to the toilet tanks for a small hissing sound. That could indicate the flapper valve is passing water. Check the toilet tank for the proper water level. There is a level mark in the tank which provides the optimal flushing without wasting water. If the water level is too high, the excess water will run through the overflow tube in the tank into the toilet bowl continuously.

DYE Test.....Place a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. After 10-15 mints, check the water in the bowl for color. If you see color in the bowl, you have a “silent” leak.

CHECK FOR FAUCET LEAKS

Most faucet leaks are plainly visible as drips coming out of the faucet aerator. Turn off the faucet completely and place a glass under the faucet. Check the glass in 15 minutes. 1 cup = 300 gallons per month. Occasionally, faucets may leak in other places such as the on/off handle or in the pipes below the basin. Leaks should be fixed immediately since they can quickly develop into a serious break.

CHECK FOR WATER HEATER LEAKS

Water heater leaks are usually quite obvious and you will discover substantial amounts of water on the floor around your heater. Normally, the first sign of a heater problem is water dripping from the bottom of the jacket. This indicates that the tank has corroded through.

CHECK FOR LANDSCAPE/IRRIGATION LEAKS

Leaks in an irrigation system can occur in several places. Most leaks occur because a valve fails to shut completely, but leaks in system pipes are not unheard of. Check for leaks around the hose and sprinkler connection. Look for standing water on the surface near irrigation system spray heads. If you see areas of the lawn that are brighter green than others, you may have a leak.

If your bill is higher than expected, here are a few possibilities to consider:

- Check the meter reading dates. The usage billed would fall between those dates. Was a pool filled or other activities completed that may use more water than usual?
- Compare usage to previous year using the 13 month water usage graph on your water bill.
- Irrigation significantly impacts water bills. Was there a change in irrigation/watering (seeding)?
- Check plumbing for leaks under sinks, under house, running toilets or constant wet spots between your water meter and home
- Did a plumber fix something between the billing dates?
- Water usage is divided into “tiers” so as usage increases, rates increase as well. These tiers encourage water efficiency, provide reasonable rates for essential water uses and give customers more control over their bill.
- A change in rates. Utilities typically adjust rates each year in July.

If the low flow indicator is spinning, you are not currently using water and you have checked for possible leaks, you may want to consider hiring a licensed plumber with leak detection equipment to check your plumbing.