



High Utility Bills

An unusually high-water bill can be caused by a leak or change in water use.

Common causes of high-water bills include:

- A leaking toilet, or a toilet that continues to run after being flushed
- A dripping faucet
- Watering the lawn, new grass
- Filling or topping off a swimming pool or hot tub
- Sump pumps that have water powered back up
- Kids home for summer vacations or school holidays; guests
- Water softener problems – cycles continuously

Tips to look for a leak

Water Meter

Take a reading during a period where no water is being used. If the meter numbers are moving during this time, there may be a leak in your home.

Toilet

A leaking toilet can be the single most common leak source in your home, resulting in the loss of hundreds of gallons per day. Fortunately, it's very easy to determine if your toilet is leaking by asking yourself the following questions: Do you find yourself jiggling the handle to stop noise? Do you hear strange, intermittent noises from the toilet? If you answered yes to either question, your toilet is probably leaking. Toilets generally leak for two reasons. First, if the float assembly is not shutting off the water, it allows the water to escape into the overflow pipe.

This problem can often be remedied by adjusting the float ball. Second, if the flush ball is worn or not seated properly, water will leak into the toilet bowl.

Check for possible flush ball leakage by using food color or dye tablet. Here's how:

- Drop the food color or dye tablet into the toilet tank. DO NOT FLUSH.
- Wait 15 to 20 minutes.
- If color appears in the toilet, you know the toilet is leaking and necessary repairs should be made.

Water Softeners

Water Softeners periodically backwash themselves with fresh water to regenerate. Sometimes the backwash valve can get stuck in the open position, causing water to be continuously wasted to the sewer system. This is a situation that very often goes undetected because there is little associated noise created, other than a soft trickling sound in the sewer pipe. This can result in a lot of water being wasted and some high bills.