

Water Leaks & High Water Bills



Are water leaks costing you money? Check all faucets for drips. Replace worn and leaking washers, gaskets, pipes or defective fixtures. Check for leaks on outside faucets, and make sure valves close properly.

Check for Leaky Toilets - The most common source of leaks is the toilet. Check toilets for leaks by placing a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If after 15 minutes the dye shows up in the bowl, without flushing the toilet, the toilet has a leak. **An average of 20% of all toilets leak!!** Toilets can account for almost 30% of all indoor water use, more than any other fixture or appliance. Older toilets (installed prior to 1994) use 3.5 to 7 gallons of water per flush and as much as 20 gallons per person per day. Replacing an old toilet with a new model can save the typical household 7,900 to 21,700 gallons of water per year, cutting both your water and wastewater bills.

Use your water meter to help determine if you have a leak. Start by turning off all faucets and water-using appliances. Be sure that no one uses water during the testing period. Read the numbers on your meter and then read them again after thirty minutes. If the numbers have change, you have a leak. Many customers ask: "What should be our normal usage?" Estimates for per person water use ranges from 40 to 80 gallons per person per day. That would be 14,600 to 29,200 gallons per year. Your meter reads in 100 cubic feet increments which is equal to 748 gallons or, as stated on your invoice, one unit of water.

40 gallons per day = 14,600 gallons per year divided by 748 = 20 Units annually per person.
80 gallons per day = 29,200 gallons per year divided by 748 = 40 Units annually per person

To determine your average daily use or to check your appliance usage, you can read your meter on an hourly, daily, or weekly basis. Simply record your meter reading at the beginning of a measurement period and again at the end of a period. The difference between these two meter readings will be the water used during that period. Note that your water meter reads in increments of 100 cubic feet and can easily be converted to gallons by multiplying the reading by 748 gallons. The chart on the next page demonstrates some averages for some activities.

Average Water Usage Estimates

Activity	Average Gallons per day per person
Bathing	15-20
Sink	3-5
Toilet	5-15
Laundry	10-20
Washing Dishes	5-10
Cooking	1-2
Miscellaneous	1-3
Total	40-80

The chart below illustrates some water use associated leaks and the amount of water that can be lost billed to your account.

Leak Size		Gallons Per Day	Gallons Per Month	Cubic Feet per Quarter
	A dripping leak consumes:	15 gallons	450 gallons	180 Cubic Feet
·	A 1/32 in. leak consumes:	264 gallons	7,920 gallons	3,168 Cubic feet
▪	A 1/16 in. leak consumes:	943 gallons	28,300 gallons	11,319 Cubic Feet
●	A 1/8 in. leak consumes:	3,806 gallons	114,200 gallons	45,681 Cubic Feet
●	A 1/4 in. leak consumes:	15,226 gallons	456,800 gallons	182,721 Cubic feet
●	A 1/2 in. leak consumes:	60,900 gallons	1,827,000 gallons	730,800 Cubic Feet

For questions regarding your water bills or assistance determining your usage history, please call the Rochester Water and Sewer billing office at 332-3110 or 335-7501.