Leaks Cost Big Dollars!

Leaking faucets, toilets, showerheads or other water using devices may waste water *and* your money. If your water usage increases or your water bill is significantly higher, and there have been no changes in your household or water usage habits, you may have a leak.   Leaks can be very expensive!

Adding water using appliances, i.e., washer or dishwasher, more outside watering, filling of a swimming pool, or additional people in your home can increase your water usage significantly. If that has not happened in your home, and your usage increases, you should check for leaks.

Toilet leaks cannot readily be seen, but a leaking toilet can easily leak between 1/4 and 1 gallon per minute, which can increase your quarterly usage by 50 percent or more than 8 times for an average residential customer. This could increase a typical residential bill by anywhere from $HÎ to more than $1,000 per quarter depending on the actual amount of water used and the rates for the system. Also, many towns base sewer usage charges on water consumption, so a water leak may also increase your sewer bill.

Depending on the rate, a faucet leak that goes for 24-hours a day, for the three months in a billing cycle, can likewise result in an additional $HÎ to $1,FÏ Î on a quarterly residential water bill. For example:

	Drip Approx. 1 gallon every 15 minutes	Trickle Approx. 1 gallon every 4 minutes	Stream Approx. 1 gallon per minute
Water lost through leak	8,640 gallons Per Quarter	32,400 gallons Per Quarter	129,600 gallons Per Quarter
Additional water used compared to typical quarterly residential account of 15,000 gals	57% more	More than 2 times	More than 8 times
Cost of leak per quarter	$36 – $78	$137 – $294	$548 – $1,176

NOTE: If your bill is calculated in cubic feet, please multiply the number of cubic feet on your bill by 7.5.   For example: Consumption =   2,000 cubic feet

2,000 cubic feet x 7.5 = 15,000 gallons

Information on how to find a leak is located on the reverse side.

How To Find A Leak

You can easily determine if you have a leak by checking your water meter. Start by turning off all the fixtures and making sure nobody is using the water. Note the meter reading on the dial initially and then again after an hour or more. If there is a change in the reading, you have a leak. If your meter has a red low flow indicator, you can quickly identify a leak by just checking to see if it is rotating when you know the water is turned off.

(low flow indicator)

If you determine there is a leak, check all the faucets, outside spigots, and toilets. Here are some tips for your search:

Toilet leaks are often the cause of wasted water. To check your toilet for leaks, simply remove the tank lid and drop in either leak detection tablets or several drops of food coloring. Wait 10 minutes. If the colored water appears in the bowl, you have a leak. If you identify a leak in the toilet, you should find out what components are defective and see that it is repaired as soon as possible. You can get toilet repair and replacement kits at the local hardware store or contact your plumber for assistance.

Faucets or showerheads may have small drips which can result in hundreds of gallons of water being wasted each day. Check each fixture to see if it is dripping. Most faucet or showerhead leaks are due to worn washers which can easily be replaced.

Connecticut Water has added a Water Calculator to its Web site to make it easy for customers to see how water fixtures and wise water use habits can potentially save water inside and outside the home. The calculator allows customers to input specifics for their own household, water usage, and fixtures and then determine how they can realize savings. Customers can access the calculator at www.ctwater.com > Customer Info> Conservation> Water Calculator (located at bottom of page).

If you need additional information on this topic or have specific questions, please feel free to contact our Customer Service staff at 1-800-286-5700 or by e-mail at publicaffairs@ctwater.com.

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