

## WATER LOSS

### ~A Leak May Run, But It Can't Hide~

If you notice your water consumption is higher than average and you were not anticipating high usage such as irrigation, pool filling or house washing for a particular bill cycle, you may have some type of water leak. Here are a few tips to help identify possible leaks. Please check toilets, faucets, cycle setting of water softener system, outside hydrants, wet spots in yard or any other type of water source on your service line.

**TOILETS** are the number one cause of indoor water loss. The average leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water per day. That's over 6,000 gallons a month for just one leaking toilet! Some toilets may produce a running water sound that is easy to hear, while others are only visible as a small trickle running from the rim to the water in the bowl. Running toilets can have different speeds at which they cost you money. A slow leak can waste **30 gallons a day** while keeping you oblivious to the problem. A medium leak, on the other hand, is more noticeable and will go through roughly **250 gallons a day**. The worst case is a large leak, where your toilet operates a constant flow of water, losing **up to 4,000 gallons every day**.



**Testing Your Toilet:** Place 5-6 drops of food coloring in the tank and wait 10-20 minutes without flushing, then check the toilet bowl. If the dye color shows in the bowl, you may have water loss.

The most common problem parts are:

- Damaged seals
- Gaps from the flush valve
- Flush valves with small cuts
- Fill valves that remain open

**FAUCETS** can be another water loss culprit. A slow drip can result in water loss of 5-10 gallons per day per faucet. A fast drip can result in water loss of 20-30 gallons per day per faucet. A slow stream can result in water loss of over 3,000 per month per faucet.

**IRRIGATION SYSTEMS** can be another source of water loss. An unattended water hose for one night at a flow of 10 gallons per minute results in water loss of 5,400 gallons. A missing irrigation sprinkler head (1/2 inch diameter) wastes 14,400 to 17,280 gallons per day and 433,200 to 518,400 gallons per month – approximately \$3228.00 - \$3865.00/month.

COMMON CAUSES OF WATER LOSS			
USE	GALLONS/MINUTE	GALLONS/MONTH	APPROX. ADD'L EXPENSE
Dripping Faucet	¼ Gallons/Minute	10,800 Gallons/Month	\$73.00/month
Leaking Toilet	½ Gallons/Minute	21,600 Gallons/Month	\$156.00/month
Irrigation Leak	1 Gallons/Minute	43,200 Gallons/Month	\$323.00/month
Stuck Ice Maker	2 Gallons/Minute	86,400 Gallons/Month	\$588.00/month
Broken Service Line	15 Gallons/Minute	21,600 Gallons/Day 648,000 Gallons/Month	\$156.00/day \$4833.00/month

IRRIGATION		
USE	GALLONS PER HOUR	GALLONS PER MONTH
Lawn Irrigation Every other day – 1 hour	360 Gallons/ Hour	10,800 Gallons/ Month
Lawn Irrigation Daily – 1 hour	720 Gallons/ Hour	21,600 Gallons/ Month
Watering Garden Daily – 2 hours	720 Gallons/ Hour	21,600 Gallons/ Month