



High Water Bills

If you feel that your water bill is higher than usual, below are a few suggestions to detect a possible leak inside the home.

Pick a time when you know that there will not be any water usage in the home (e.g., afternoon, overnight, or on a weekend when you will be away.) Take a reading from the meter before you leave. This is the water meter inside your home and not the device on the outside. Take another reading immediately upon returning. If the meter has any usage (numbers changed) you have a leak.

Your toilet is the first to consider for the leak. In 24 hours, a toilet can leak up to 2,500 gallons of water. There are times when you can hear your toilet “running,” however, the worst leaks are when you cannot hear them. Here are two ways to detect a leak:

To check for a leak caused by a ballcock that needs adjusting:

Remove the tank top. Sprinkle powder on top of the water and look to see if the powder drifts towards the overflow tube. If it does, your ballcock needs to be adjusted.

To check for a leak caused by a faulty tank/bowl seal or a flapper seal:

Pour a dark liquid (e.g., kool aid, iced tea, food coloring) into the tank. Wait a few minutes. If you can see colored water seeping into the bowl, this indicates that your seal needs to be serviced. Seals can get sand or dirt under them, which can cause water loss through a faulty seal.

Check for dripping faucets and or tubs. Outside faucets should be checked to make sure they are not running. Finally, read your meter on a weekly basis to track your own water usage. If you need help understanding the numbers on the meter, call the city office at 989 362 8688 and we can help you.