



One unit of water (748 gallons) delivered to your home costs so little that small leaks in your plumbing may seem unimportant. But leaks, even in small drips, can accumulate into a quite sizeable amount.

Gallons of water wasted in 24 hours

60 drops a minute:		6.4
90 drops a minute:		10.3
120 drops a minute:		14.3
1/16" stream:	•	822
1/8" stream:	●	2,850
1/4" stream:	●	11,400
1/2" stream:	●	45,600



Water leaks can cost you and your family money. You may not even know they are occurring.

Look inside and find out how to detect and fix leaks before they affect your pocket book.

This information is provided by Saint Paul Regional Water Services to assist our customers in controlling their water bills.

We take pride in providing you with quality drinking water at a reasonable cost. Every day, SPRWS produces an average of 50 million gallons of drinking water and distributes it through a thousand miles of water main to more than 417,000 residents of Saint Paul and the surrounding communities.



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It's money down the drain



Finding and fixing water leaks

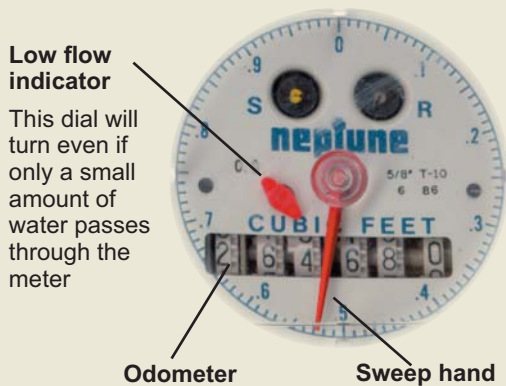


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Checking for leaks

The average person uses between 80-100 gallons of water per day. A water leak could waste more water than all of the water you would normally use.

To find out whether you might have a leak, take a reading of your water meter before you retire for the night. (Your meter is located inside your home, about one foot off of the floor in your basement. It could also be in a crawl space, pit in the floor, or utility room. It is not outside.) Make certain that no one uses any water overnight. Take another reading of the meter in the morning. The readings should be the same, otherwise, you probably have a leak.



Toilet leaks are the most likely cause of water waste in the home. Most toilet leaks are silent, going undetected. Faucet drips are usually more obvious, as they can be seen and heard.

Leaky toilets waste water and your money

One-fifth of all toilets leak

About 20 percent of all toilets leak; water loss can range from 20 gallons to hundreds of gallons in a single day, depending on the size of the leak. It could be expensive, as silent toilet leaks often go unnoticed until we read your meter; your water and sewer bill could double or even triple in a quarterly billing cycle.

While common, toilet leaks are usually easy to fix as well. Worn out flappers are a major cause of leakage; they should be replaced every three to five years. Flappers are relatively inexpensive and can be found at most hardware and building supply stores.

How to replace a flapper

1. Turn off the water supply to the toilet.
2. Flush the toilet to remove water in the tank.
3. Unhook the flapper chain from the arm.
4. Slide the flapper up and off the overflow tube.
5. Slide the new flapper over overflow tube and position it squarely over the flapper seat.
6. Re-attach the chain to the handle arm.
7. Turn on water supply to the toilet.

Finding a toilet leak

- ✓ Put a few drops of food coloring or dye tablets in the toilet tank. Don't flush for 45 minutes. If color seeps into the bowl, your flapper needs to be replaced.
- ✓ If a black residue rubs off when you touch the flapper, it's time to replace it.
- ✓ If the water keeps running despite the tank being full, pull up on the float. If the water stops running, the float needs to be adjusted.
- ✓ Do you hear a hiss or a squeal? Try adjusting your float. If that doesn't help, check your inlet valve. If that valve isn't working properly, it will leak water into the overflow tube.
- ✓ Do you have to jiggle the handle to make the toilet stop running? You might need to adjust the chain so that it allows the flapper to sit in the valve seat properly.

