

HAVE A HIGHER THAN USUAL WATER BILL?

CHECK FOR LEAKS!

Leaks, unseen or unfixed, can drip hundreds, even thousands, of gallons of water wastefully down the drain. If you have an unusually high water bill, you should start by checking these three high-risk places for leaks.

TOILETS: The toilet is the most common water wasters but its leaks tend to be less noticeable than faucet leaks. To determine if your toilet is leaking, look at the toilet bowl after the tank has stopped filling. The water level in the tank should be about an inch lower than the overflow tube. If not, you will have to replace or adjust the ballcock or the float. If water is still running into the bowl, or if water can be heard running, your toilet is leaking. Although water may not be seen or heard running, your toilet can have a silent leak. To test for a silent leak, drop a little food coloring into the tank before you go to bed. DO NOT FLUSH. In the morning, if food coloring appears in the toilet bowl, your toilet has a silent leak. It is probably located in, or around, the plunger ball or flapper valve at the bottom of the tank. These leaks are easy to fix with parts from your local hardware store.

FAUCETS: Most leaks result from worn washers in household faucets. These faucets, as well as seldom-used taps in the basement or storage rooms, should be checked periodically. Faucet leaks are usually caused by worn washers or “O” rings (for washer-less faucets).

WATER SOFTENER: The water softener isn't generally known for leaking, however, they are known for getting “stuck” in the recycle phase where they can pull hundreds of gallons of water in just a few days. If you go to your water softener and hear it running continuously, your water softener may be stuck on the recycle phase, costing you gallons of wasted water.