



WATER LEAKS HOW MUCH THEY CAN COST

What is the cost of a water leak? The answer to this question is not a simple one. Several variables effect what a leak will cost, such as the length of time the leak lasts; the size of the leak; and the water system pressure.

A typical individually metered residential customer uses approximately 5,000 to 6,000 gallons of water per month. In addition, the sewer bill is based on water usage. The total cost is approximately 1.5 cents per gallon.

A leak can be costly and can add up quickly. Shown below is a chart which demonstrates how a small leak can develop into a large cost.

Size of Leak	Gallons per DAY (if water pressure is 60 lbs./sq.in.)	Water/sewer Cost per DAY at 1.5 ¢ per gallon	Gallons per WEEK (60 psi)	Water/sewer Cost per WEEK at 1.5 ¢ per gallon	Gallons per MONTH (60 psi)	Water/sewer Cost per MONTH at 1.5 ¢ per gallon
1/16"	360	\$ 5.40	2,520	\$ 37.80	10,800	\$ 162.00
1/8"	3,096	\$ 46.44	21,672	\$ 325.08	92,880	\$ 1,393.20
3/16"	8,424	\$ 126.36	58,968	\$ 884.52	252,720	\$ 3,790.80
1/4"	14,952	\$ 224.28	104,664	\$ 1,569.96	448,560	\$ 6,728.40

Where to check for leaks

- Toilets – this is the most common cause for a high water bill. It is an unseen, often unheard leak that goes down the sewer. To check a toilet for leaks if the toilet has a tank, put some food dye in the tank and wait 15 to 20 minutes without flushing. If the food coloring appears in the bowl, there is a leak. A property owner may have to perform a test several times. Toilet leaks can be erratic.
- Outdoor hoses
- Pipes that provide water to plumbing fixtures
- Faucets and spigots – indoors and outdoors

- Shower heads
- Water-using appliances such as clothes washers, dishwashers and ice makers
- Irrigation systems
- Siphon back-up sump pumps

HIGH UTILITY BILL

If you receive a high utility bill the Water Department will, upon customer's request, make a courtesy visit to your residence in an effort to assist in locating a leak. This visit does not guarantee that we will locate the leak or that the City is responsible for water loss if a leak is not found.

Your home's water meter has a flow detector. Our Water Department's personnel will explain how the flow detector works and offer ideas on monitoring for leaks.

If a property owner disputes the utility bill, an option is available to have the water meter tested to verify its accuracy. There is an upfront fee for this service of \$ 250.00. The fee covers the cost of testing the meter. The meter is not tested by City staff. It is sent to a company that tests the water meter to verify whether it works in accordance with American Water Works Association Specifications. If the meter tests within these specifications, the test fee is retained by the City and the utility payment is required (payment plans are not available). If the water meter does not test within the AWWA specifications, the \$ 250.00 test fee will be refunded and the utility bill will be adjusted based on a consistent previous three-month average usage.

Please note:

No account adjustments for irrigation system leaks.

No account adjustments for unexplained water loss.

No account adjustments for water loss that did not go into the sewer system.

If you have any questions or need to contact the Department of Public Works for assistance, please call 810-664-4711.

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