

REASONS FOR A HIGH WATER BILL

Not only does a high water bill cost you money, it can indicate a significant waste of one of our most precious resources. So, when your water bill is high, it's only natural to want to track down the cause and correct it as soon as possible. With this in mind, here are a few common reasons for a high water bill, and what you can do about them:

1. Leaky/Running Toilets

A running or leaky toilet can waste up to 4,000 gallons of water in a single day.

Not sure if your toilet is leaking? You can check for a toilet leak in two ways:

1. **The Sound Check.** Simply walk up to your toilet and listen. If you hear an odd hiss-like noise, you may have a leak and will want to check further.
2. **The Dye Test.** For this test, you'll need some food coloring or a dye tablet. Take the lid off of your toilet's tank and put in a couple of drops of coloring (or a dye tablet). After you've put the dye in the tank, wait a few hours (Best time to test is overnight.) and check the toilet bowl for dye. If dye is present, then there's a leak allowing tank water to flow into the bowl.

In most cases, these leaks will be caused by a faulty flapper in the toilet tank. This is a relatively easy fix that only requires a short trip to your local home improvement/hardware store and a few minutes.

2. Leaky Faucets & Fixtures

Leaky faucet fixtures are another all-too-common cause of high water bills. The heavier the leak, the more water gets wasted, and the higher the water bill will be.

Thankfully, this is a problem that's easy to spot and fix. A simple visual check of your faucets, shower heads, and other fixtures is all it takes to identify a leak at the fixture.

The most common cause of a faucet leak is a faulty rubber washer in the faucet handle. In most cases, you can shut off the water to the leaky faucet, unscrew the handle, remove the bad washer, and replace it with a new one.

3. Irrigation Leaks

Not all leaks occur indoors. If you have an irrigation system for your landscaping, a line crack or loose joint could allow water to leak even when the irrigation system is off.

Finding these leaks can be a little tricky, especially if the lines for the irrigation system are buried out of sight. To spot these leaks, you may need to check your landscaping/lawn for unusually damp patches or areas of grass that are more lush than their surroundings. However, these signs of a leak are similar to the signs of a leak in a lateral line.

To fix this kind of leak, you may need to consult a professional.

4. New Water-Consuming Equipment

On a related note, adding new water-intensive equipment to your home can also cause a significant increase in your water bill. Pools, sprinkler systems, washing machines, freezers, and other new equipment can result in a sudden increase in your water bill.

To minimize the impact of new equipment on your water bill, try to select appliances that are marked as high-efficiency or have the Water Sense logo.

If you add a pool to your property, be sure to cover it when not in use to minimize the water loss from evaporation so you don't have to use as much water to refill it.