

STOP THAT RUNNING TOILET!



Why is it important to fix a leak?

Leaking toilets are the most common cause of leaks inside your home. A running toilet can waste thousands of gallons a year, which will cost you money each month! Most often, leaky toilets can be fixed with little cost and time. The Public Works Department recommends you test each toilet in your home for leaks once a year. Leak Detection Kits are available for **FREE** at the cashier's office at City Hall, 109 E. Olive Street, and the Public Works Department office located at 115 E. Washington Street, Room 301. Please call the Public Works Department at (309) 434-2225 with any questions.

How much can it cost me?

Water Appliance Usage and Leak Rates (2)

Sink, Shower, Faucet				
Drips Per Trickle	Minute	Water Wasted Per Month (Gallons)	Water Wasted Per Year (Gallons)	Annual Cost (1) for Water, Sewer, BNWRD, Utility Tax
10		43	516	\$4.91
60		259	3,108	\$29.54
300		1,296	15,552	\$147.83
1/16" Trickle		24,667	296,000	\$2,813.73

Toilet Usage and Leak Rates (2)

Toilet			
Leak Rate	Water Wasted Per Month (Gallons)	Water Wasted Per Year (Gallons)	Annual Cost (1) for Water, Sewer, BNWRD, Utility Tax
300 Gallons / Day (Silent Leak)	9,000	108,000	\$1,026.63
500 Gallons / Day (Audible Leak)	15,000	180,000	\$1,711.05

(1) Based on Water, Sewer, BNWRD and Utility Tax rates effective February 1, 2018.

(2) Leak rates vary based on water pressure and size of drips.

How to Check Your Toilet for Leaks

Obvious Leaks: Take the cover off the toilet tank. Watch to see if there is any water dripping or running into the overflow tube. If water is flowing into the overflow tube, attempt to correct the issue by adjusting the height of the float. If water is dripping out of the fill valve, you may need to tighten a screw or replace the fill valve.

Silent Leaks: Place a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet into the tank of the toilet. DO NOT flush for fifteen minutes. If there is coloring in the toilet bowl after fifteen minutes, there is a leak. The quicker the color appears, the more significant the leak.

Determine What Part is Leaking: Turn off the water to the toilet, draw a line on the tank at the water level, and wait an hour. If the water level drops below the line, the problem is most likely with the flush valve or flapper. If the water level stays the same, the leak is most likely caused by the fill valve or float. Make sure to flush the toilet after testing to avoid staining.

What can cause a toilet to leak: The two most common causes of a toilet leak are the flapper and fill valve.

Flappers can become warped, damaged or degrade over time, preventing a watertight seal on the flush valve. The flapper, handle arm, or chain may no longer align with the flush valve, leaving a gap which can cause a leak. Over time, grit or sediment can cause small cuts and other damage to the flush valve which can result in a leak between the flush valve and the flapper.

More Information:

Toilet Leak Instructional Videos:

Conserve H2O - <https://youtu.be/NH7HvIYEoYs>

Conserve H2O - https://youtu.be/_iOntqeVGOU

US EPA - <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>

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If you are not able to perform the leak evaluation or cannot make the necessary repairs yourself, call a licensed plumber or contractor for assistance. The City cannot be held responsible for damage to your home or fixtures from following the procedures outlined in this informational sheet.

