

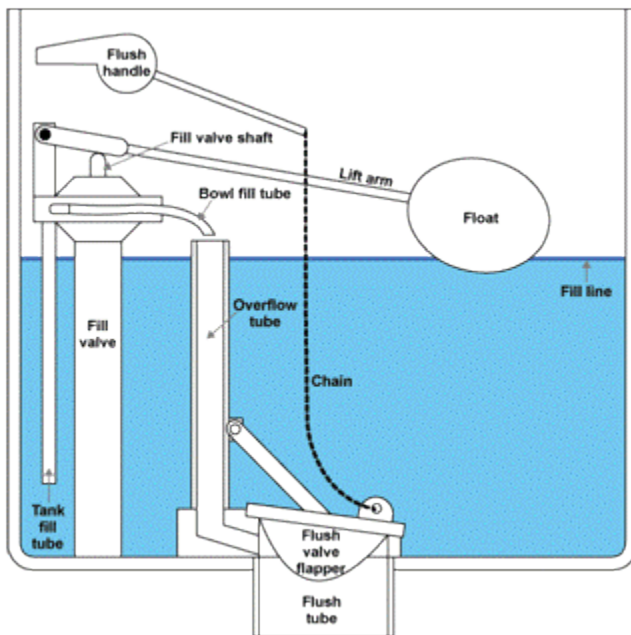
Water Loss Culprits

Toilets

Are the number one cause of indoor water loss. A stuck/open flapper can be caused by a bound-up chain connecting the toilet flush handle or the flush handle getting stuck in the down position, resulting in a potential water loss of 200+ gallons per hour. A flapper may stick temporarily, maybe a day or two, and then work fine. Also check for sediment in the tank as this can cause the flapper to not seat fully.

If the float is set too high or sticks, water will run down the overflow tube in the toilet tank. A tube that is 1/4 inch in diameter can run 7,200 to 8,640 gallons per day.

To test your toilet for loss, place 5—6 drops of food coloring in the tank and wait about 10 minutes without flushing, then check the toilet bowl. If the dye color shows in the bowl, you may have water loss.



Faucets

A slow drip can result in water loss of 5—10 gallons per day per faucet. A fast drip can result in water loss of 20—30 gallons per day per faucet. A slow stream can result in water loss of 3,000 gallons per month per faucet. Please check your basement and outdoor faucets as these are common locations that go unnoticed for a long period of time.

Gallons Per Use

It may be difficult to imagine how all your water is used, but consider this:

- The average person uses 60-90 gallons of water a day.
- Brushing your teeth with the water running can use 10 gallons of water
- A 5-minute shower with a regular shower head uses 20 gallons
- Flushing the toilet uses 1.5 to 5 gallons per flush depending upon the efficiency of the fixture
- Washing laundry uses 10-20 gallons per load
- Running the Dishwasher uses 12 gallons per load
- Hand washing dishes uses 10-20 gallons
- Cooking uses 1 to 5 gallons per day
- Watering with a hose uses 5 to 10 gallons per minute

Leaks can be costly

Leaking pipes at your house can be a source of high-water loss. Even a small hole can result in gallons of loss per day. If you have consistent high-water usage you may need to get a plumber to check your lines. The Town uses two types of water meters; one utilizes a turbine wheel that records the water flow on a rotary dial, the other type is a digital meter that uses ultrasonic sound waves to record the water flow. Either type has a flow indicator which will show when water is passing through the meter. If the household has all water usage stopped and the flow indicator still turns, then there is a leak in the plumbing. The meter only records the water that flows into the house. A leak on the town side has no effect on the meter recording.

Unrepaired Leaks Can Be Costly Water Loss in Gallons at 50 psi

Leak this Size	Loss per Day	Loss per Month	Loss per Year
●	120	3,600	43,200
●	360	10,800	129,600
●	693	20,790	249,480
●	1,200	36,000	432,000
●	1,920	57,600	691,200
●	3,096	92,880	1,114,560
●	4,296	128,880	1,546,560
●	6,640	199,200	2,390,400
●	6,984	209,520	2,514,240

Drinking Water - It's Worth Saving

Office of Drinking Water
1-800-521-0323
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>

