Outdoors

Check the outside faucets for leaking water, particularly during the peak summer watering season. A hose hidden in the grass, accidentally left dripping, can waste thousands of gallons of water over the course of a summer.

Outdoor Conservation Tips:

- Water only when your grass shows signs of stress, wilting or discoloration, or when footprints are visible after you walk on it.
- Add a rain sensor device to your lawn sprinkler system.
- Water only in the morning or evening when evaporation levels are lowest and only during authorized hours.

- Use sprinkler heads that distribute big drops of water close to the ground.
- Smaller drops and mist often evaporate before hitting the ground.
- Consider Florida-friendly landscaping which is the planting of native, drought-tolerant, climate adapted plants in your yard. Newly planted Florida-friendly landscaping requires 30 days of irrigation to establish its root system. After this time, natural rainfall is the only water needed!

LEAK082014

Some Interesting Facts and Statistics

About 70% of the typical family's indoor water usage is in the bathroom. This is partly because water is used at a faster "flow rate" in the bathroom than in any other part of the home. Toilets and showers usually have a flow rate of 5-7 gallons per minute; most dishwashers and clothes washers use less than three gallons per minute.

Toilet * . . . . . .5 to 7 gallons per flush

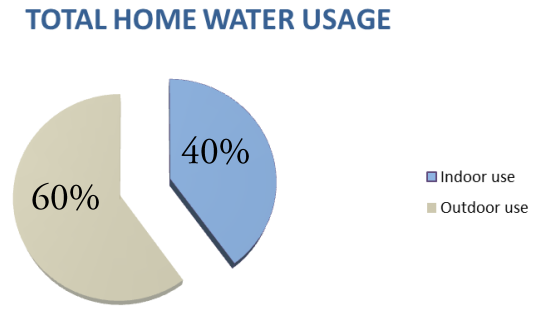
Shower *. . . . . .. 5 to 7 gallons per minute

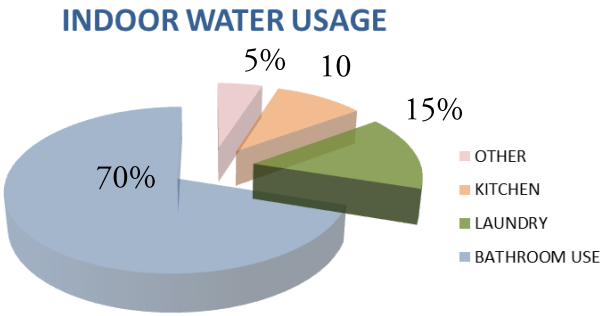
Bathtub . . . . . .36 to 60 gallons per bath

Dishwasher . . . . 10 to 25 gallons per cycle

Washing machine . . . . 20 to 45 gallons per load

* Non high-efficiency appliance





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WATER LEAK DETECTION GUIDE

YOUR HOMETOWN UTILITY

FORT PIERCE UTILITIES AUTHORITY

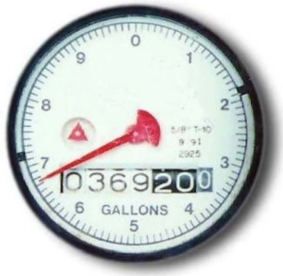
A High Bill Usually Means a Leak

Did you know that approximately 50 percent of all households have some kind of plumbing leak? Most of these leaks are due to worn out washers, flappers or faulty tank valves, which can result in hundreds or even thousands of gallons of water wasted needlessly. Not only is this a waste of natural resources, but it also registers through the meter, which could affect your water and wastewater bill.

This guide was created to illustrate common home plumbing problems, and will not only save time, but will help avoid costly water and wastewater bills.

Follow These Steps to Determine If the Meter Has Been Misread…

1. To determine if the meter has been misread, simply copy down the numbers (from left to right) on the meter's register. (The register looks similar to a car odometer.)



2. Compare the numbers on the register to the numbers indicated as the "Current Reading" on your utility bill. The reading from the register should be equal to or higher than the "Current Reading."
3. If the reading on the meter is lower than the reading indicated on your bill, the meter may have been misread. Please contact Customer Service at (772) 466-1600, for a re-read and corrected bill.
4. If the meter reading is substantially higher than the reading on your bill, there may be a water leak.

Follow These Steps to Determine If There May Be a Leak…

Most meter faces have a flow indicator (small in size, red or black in color, triangular in shape – see illustration above). If there is no water being used at the time of inspection, and the flow indicator is moving or spinning, this is a good indication that there may be a leak somewhere in or around your dwelling.

Not all leaks are big and clearly noticeable. If the meter does not have a flow indicator or the flow indicator is not moving, continue with these steps to further evaluate the situation.

1. Copy down the numbers (from left to right) on the meter's register. Do not use any water for a period of two (2) hours. Take another reading from your meter's register after the two (2) hour testing period, and compare it to the first reading. If the reading is higher, there may be a water leak.

Pinpointing the Possible Leak…

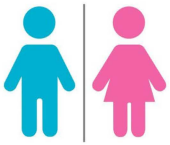
2. To help pinpoint whether the location of the leak is inside or outside the home, close the house valve (generally located in the meter box, on an outside wall where the waterline enters the home or near the water heater).
3. Repeat step 1 above. If the meter continues to move, the leak may be outside the home in the service line that leads from the meter to the home, or in any water using device that may be hooked to the system outside the dwelling.
4. If the meter does not move after your second test, the leak may be inside the home. This booklet contains helpful hints that may assist with leak detection both inside and outside the home.

Checking the Toilet

The most common toilet leaks can also be the most costly because they represent the greatest water usage in the home. A leaky toilet can waste over 200 gallons of water per day! Most toilet flush tanks work in the same way. The tank contains two valves: a flush valve and a refill valve. One type of refill valve is commonly called a ballcock/flush ball valve. The other type of flush tank has modern plastic valves.

Checking for Leaks

To check both the flush valve and the refill valve for leaks, simply put a couple drops of dark food coloring or a leak detection dye tablet in the tank. Do this when the tank is fully refilled after a flush. Do not use the toilet. Then check the bowl after 20 minutes. If colored water is in the bowl, there is a leak.



- 1/32" leak can waste. ,,…..,73,992 gallons per year
- 1/16" leak can waste. .....295,992 gallons per year
- 1/8" leak can waste.,…, 1,183,992 gallons per year
- 1/4" leak can waste…... 4,725,996 gallons per year

Leak Chart @ 60 P.S.I

Faucet Leaks

Another common source for leaks is the faucet. Whether in the kitchen, bathtub or shower, a leaky faucet can waste more than 20 gallons of water per day. Leaking faucets are usually caused by worn washers or "O" rings. Water lost because of a delay in leaky faucet repair can be more costly than buying replacement parts. The chart above shows how much water a "slow drip" can waste, assuming there is standard 60 psi (pounds per square inch) pressure in your pipe.

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