



Every Drop Counts

Tips for finding and fixing water leaks

Ensuring you know where your water is going allows you to have control over your quarterly utility bill.

The smallest leak in your home may not seem like it should affect your bill, but if the leak continues, for even a day, it can accumulate into an increased bill.

Look inside for tips and facts about how to save water. If you are interested in more information about how you can save water, please contact the City of Chanhassen.



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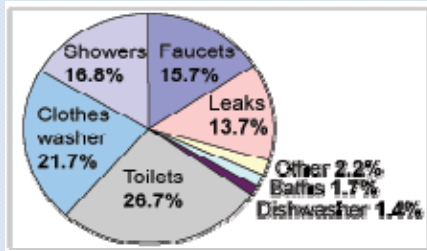
www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us



CONSERVATION IS THE KEY

TIPS TO SAVE WATER

Americans use large quantities of water inside their homes. The average family of four can use 400 gallons of water every day, and, on average, approximately 70 percent of that water is used indoors.



Check all faucets and toilets for small drips or water usage when there should be none

- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth to save 25 gallons a month
- Shorten your shower by 1-2 minutes to save 5-10 gallons a day
- Only run the dishwasher when full
- Front-load washing machines can save up to 30 gallons per load
- Cut your grass to a minimum of 3" to encourage deep root growth and decrease the amount of water needed
- Look for *EnergyStar* or *WaterSense* labels when purchasing new appliances

LEAKY TOILETS

Toilet leaks can waste as much as three to five gallons of water per minute. Toilet leaks generally occur in two ways and are often very difficult to detect.

*The most common toilet leak and often hardest to detect is caused by a deteriorated or defective flush (flapper) valve at the bottom of the toilet tank. If the flapper or ball valve does not sit properly and form a water tight seal, water will leak around it into the toilet bowl. Often, this leak will occur without being heard. To test for this type of leak, add a few drops of food coloring or place a colored dye tablet (available at the City of Chanhassen, free of charge) in the toilet after it has stopped filling. If color shows up in the bowl your flapper valve may be defective and should be replaced.

*The second most common type of leak is caused by an improperly adjusted or broken fill (ball cock) valve. If the float is set too high or if the shut-off valve fails to close completely, water will continue to enter the tank and flow into the overflow tube. This type of leak can be seen simply by taking the tank top off and observing if water is flowing into the overflow tube once the tank is full.

Contacting your local hardware store or city utility can help you pin-point any possible leaks. Repairs to fix leaky toilets generally cost only a few dollars, but will help save hundreds on your quarterly utility bill.

WATER LOSS

Gallons of water used in 24 hours

60 drops per minute:	6.4
90 drops per minute:	10.3
120 drops per minute:	14.3
1/16" stream:	822
1/8" stream:	2,850
1/4" stream:	11,400
1/2" stream:	45,600

A toilet running continuously can amount to the following amounts of wasted water:

- 210 gallons per hour
- 5,040 gallons per day
- 35,280 gallons per week
- 141,120 gallons per month
- 423,360 gallons per quarter

