WATER LEAKS HOW MUCH THEY CAN COST

What is the cost of a water leak? The answer to this question is not a simple one. Several variables effect what a leak will cost such as the length of time the leak lasts; the size of the leak; and the water system pressure.

A typical individually metered residential customer uses approximately 5,000 to 6,000 gallons of water per month. In addition, the sewer bill is based on water usage. Hence, the incremental cost of 1,000 gallons of water and sewer use is \$5.40 for water and \$3.50 for sewer (2013 rates), for a total cost of \$8.90. This total cost equals 9/10ths of 1 cent per gallon.

A leak can be costly and can add up quickly. Shown below is a chart which demonstrates how a small leak can develop into a large cost.

Size of Leak	Gallons per	Water/Sewer	Gallons per	Water/Sewer	Gallons per	Water/Sewer
	DAY (if	Cost per DAY	WEEK (60	Cost per	MONTH (60	Costs per
	water	at .009 per	psi)	WEEK at	psi)	MONTH at
	pressure is	gallon		.009 per		.009 per
	60 lbs/sq.			gallon		gallon
	in.)					
1/16"	360	\$3.24	2520	\$22.68	10,800	\$97.20
1/8"	3,096	\$27.87	21,672	\$195.05	92,880	\$835.92
3/16"	8,424	\$75.82	58,968	\$530.72	252,720	\$2274.48
5/16"	11,324	\$101.92	79,268	\$713.42	339,720	\$3057.48
1/4"	14,952	\$134.57	104,664	\$941.98	448,560	\$4037.04

WHERE TO CHECK FOR LEAKS

- Toilets-this if the most common cause for a high water bill. It is an unseen, often unheard leak that goes down the sewer. To check a toilet for leaks if the toilet has a tank, put some food coloring dye into the tank and wait 15 to 20 minutes without flushing. If the food coloring appears in the bowl, there is a leak. A property owner may have to perform a test several times. Toilet leaks can be erratic.
- Outdoor hoses
- Pipes that provide water to plumbing fixtures
- Faucets and spigots-indoors and outdoors
- Shower heads
- Water-using appliances such as clothes washers, dishwashers, and ice makers
- Irrigation systems
- Siphon back-up sump pumps

HIGH UTILITY BILL

If you receive a high utility bill, the Water Department will, upon customer's request, make a courtesy visit to your residence in an effort to assist in locating a leak. This visit does not guarantee that we will

locate the leak or that the Town is responsible for water loss if a leak is not found. The property owner may need to hire a plumber.

If a property owner disputes the utility bill, they may come in to a Water/Sewer Commission meeting to discuss the bill.

Please note:

No account adjustments for irrigation system leaks.

No account adjustments for unexplained water loss. If it went through the meter, the property owner is responsible for the bill.

If you have any questions or need to contact the Water & Sewer Commission for assistance, please call 413-268-8430 or 413-268-8402. Thank you.

Unrepaired Leaks can be Costly

Water Loss in Gallons					
Leak this Size	Loss per Day	Loss per Month			
	120	3,600			
•	360	10,800			
•	693	20,790			
•	1,200	36,000			
. •	1,920	57,600			
• 1	3,096	92,880			
•	4,296	128,880			
•	6,640	199,200			
•	6,984	209,520			
T	8,424	252,720			
•	9,888	296,640			
	11,324	339,720			
	12,720	381,600			
	14,952	448,560			
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