

## Common Causes of High Water Bills

An unusually high water bill is most often caused by a leak or change in water use. Some common causes of high water bills include:

- A leaking toilet that continues to run after being flushed. Toilet leaks are the most common cause for a high water bill and can waste up to 200 gallons a day or more depending on the volume flow down the drain. You can usually hear a toilet running but not always. Here are two common methods of checking for a toilet leak: 1) The Sound Check: Simply walk up to your toilet and listen. If you hear an odd hiss-like noise, you may have a leak and will want to check the flapper, water line connections, and seals further. 2) The Dye Test: For this test, you'll need some food coloring or a dye tablet. Take the lid off of your toilet's tank and put in a couple of drops of coloring (or a dye tablet). After you've put the dye in the tank, wait 15-20 minutes and check the toilet bowl for dye. If dye is present, then there's a leak allowing tank water to flow into the bowl.
- A dripping faucet; a faucet drip can waste 20 gallons of water or more per day
- Filling or topping off a swimming pool or hot tub
- Watering the lawn, garden, flowerbeds, or washing the car. Also check for any open hose spigots
- Sump pumps that have water powered back up
- Kids home for summer vacations or school holidays; guests
- Water-cooled air conditioners
- A broken water pipe or obvious leak; check the pipes in the basement or crawlspace; the water heater could also be leaking
- Water softener problems – cycles continuously
- Running the water to avoid freezing water pipes during cold weather

One way to determine whether or not you have a leak is to check your water meter. The water meter is usually located in the basement of your home. If you cannot locate your meter, you can speak to one of the gentlemen from our Water Department who can help you. Once you have located the meter, take a meter reading and then wait a few hours before taking another reading. Make sure that no water is used during this time. If the reading on the meter has changed that indicates that you have a leak. You will want to contact a plumber right away to help determine where the leak is coming from. Property owners are responsible for all private service water lines from the public water main to the residence and for leaks inside the home.

Village of Liberty Water Dept.  
845-292-6420