HIGH WATER BILL?

Look for Obvious Leaks
Unfixed leaks can waste hundreds and even thousands of gallons of water. Make a habit of checking your plumbing and home for leaky faucets, toilets, and outside taps and sprinkler lines. A dripping faucet can waste more than 20 gallons of water a day!

Look for Hidden Leaks
Leaks can happen in unseen places like under your home, or in attics or crawlspaces.

Check Appliances
Appliances connected to your home’s water supply can be a source of leaks. Water heaters, humidifiers, water-cooled air conditioners, and dishwashers could all be sources of leaks that may impact your water bill. Homes with water softeners typically have higher water bills due to the backwash cycles these systems go through.

Conserve Water
House guests, kids home for summer vacation, adding a new appliance that uses water such as a dishwasher - any change to the quantity of water used in your home can impact your bill. Practice good water conservation habits, like turning off faucets while brushing your teeth or taking shorter showers. Install energy efficient faucets and appliances when possible.

Use Your Water Meter's Leak Detector
Your water meter is probably located in your basement or utility room. It has a leak detector. This small blue piece will spin when water is not in use, and a leak is present.

You can also track your water usage. Your meter tracks water usage in cubic feet. Check it and document the cubic feet showing at that moment. Do not run the water for a few hours, and recheck. If the cubic feet has changed, you have a leak!
How to Check for a Toilet Leak

Toilet leaks are the most common cause of a higher than normal water bill. A constantly running toilet is a likely sign of a leak, but not always.

A deteriorated or defective flush valve or flapper ball in the toilet tank is the most likely cause of a toilet leak.

1. Take the lid off of the tank, behind the bowl
2. Flush the toilet and wait for it to fully refill
3. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank
4. Wait 20 minutes
5. Look in the toilet bowl - if the water is colored, your dye leaked through from the tank and you have a leak to fix.

If your water is clear, you may still have an improperly adjusted or broken fill (ballcock) valve. To check for this, take the lid off of the toilet tank, flush, and see if water is draining into the overflow tubes when the tank is full.

A continuously running toilet can waste more than 200 GALLONS of water per day.

Seasonal Usage

In summertime, sprinklers are a common cause of higher water bills. Automated sprinkler systems should be checked regularly to make sure they are working properly and have no leaks or broken sprinkler heads. Filling pools, running water lines for kids to play in sprinklers, and watering gardens also may cause higher water bills in summer.

A rain barrel can help reduce water usage for watering lawns. Visit www.westalliswi.gov/rainbarrels to purchase one for just $20.

- If you receive a water bill that you think is too high, start by investigating the common causes of a high water bill listed here.
- If you still cannot find the source of the leak or cause of your higher bill, contact a plumber to help you.
- Still stuck? Call the West Allis Water Utility at 414-302-8245, Mondays - Fridays from 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Save Time. Pay Online.

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