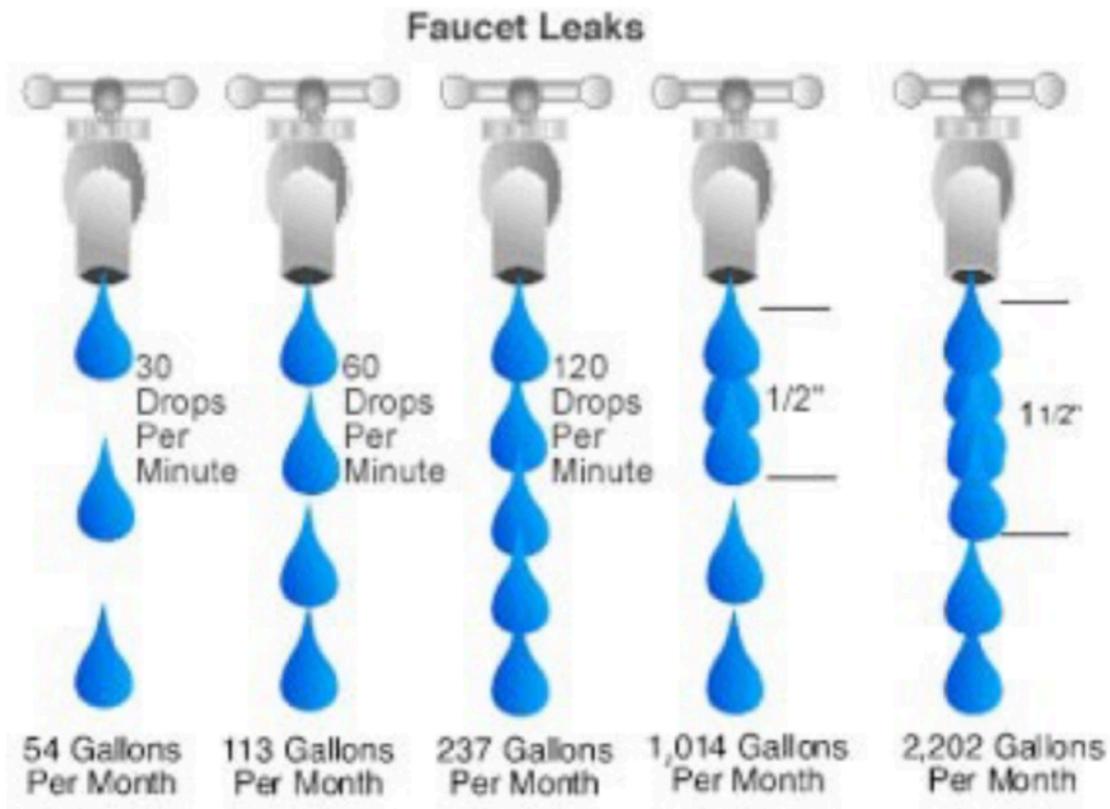


# COMMON CAUSES OF HIGH WATER BILLS

## LEAKS



Since your water &/or sewer bills are calculated, in part based on consumption (with the exception of some out of city flat rate sewer areas), a leak can result in a much higher than normal water bill. Some leaks are easier to find than others, such as a dripping faucet or a running toilet. If you suspect a toilet leak, but do not hear it running, a good way to find out if it has a leak is to place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait a few minutes. If the water in the bowl turns color, you have a leak and the flapper probably needs replacing.

Other leaks are harder to find, especially if they occur outside or underground. Remember, any leak that occurs between the meter and the home is the home-owners responsibility to repair. Even a small leak can have a significant impact on water loss, which will increase your water and/or sewer bill accordingly. See the chart below for an example.

# WATER LOSS IN GALLONS

LEAK SIZE	LOSS PER DAY	LOSS PER MONTH	LEAK SIZE	LOSS PER DAY	LOSS PER MONTH
·	120	3,600	●	6,640	199,520
·	300	10,800	●	6,964	209,520
●	693	20,790	●	8,424	252,720
●	1,200	36,000	●	9,585	296,640
●	1,920	57,600	●	11,324	339,720
●	3,095	92,880	●	12,750	361,600
●	4,295	128,880	●	14,952	448,560

For the smallest leak on the chart, an in-city water and sewer customer would lose 7,200 gallons per billing period (bi-monthly), which at current rates (\$3.75 for water and \$2.51 for sewer) would equate to \$45.07. For an out-of-city water and sewer customer, this would equate to \$90.14.

Visit <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/> for more information about leaks.