

DETECTING & INVESTIGATING LEAKS

A dripping water faucet inside and out of the house? ...

One hundred drips per minute can waste up to 33 gallons per day. A total of 3,000 gallons per quarter or 12,000 gallons per year. Water dripping or running from the showerhead when the shower is turned firmly off is usually caused by a bad washer or seat which needs replacing. Also check for leaks from the tub faucet when a tub shower is on. This leak will defeat the purpose of a low flow showerhead because the water you save with a low flow shower is lost from the tub faucet.



First Sign of a Leak – One of the first indications of a water leak is an unexplained increase in the usage amount and dollar amount of your water bill. If there is an increase in usage that cannot be explained such as extra people in the house, lawn watering, faucet left on, etc, there is a possibility that you may have a leak in your toilet, hot water heater blow off, water softener, sprinkler system, or you may have a dripping faucet.

We encourage our customers to check for leaks before scheduling an appointment with the office to save themselves both water and money—it's free for you to check but not for us. The department has available in the City Hall office special dye tabs for use in detecting leaks in toilets. A leaking toilet tank can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day. A total of 18,000 gallons per quarter or 72,000 gallons per year. Most high water bills are caused by leaks in toilets. You can see and hear some leaks, but many are silent and hard to find. A bad flapper valve, flapper valve seat, a bad ballcock valve, an improperly positioned float arm, or a defective overflow tube can cause them. At bedtime,

when the toilet is not expected to be used for several hours, drop the dye into the top tank. If there is any dye in the bowl in the morning you have a leak!

Customers may also check their whole house for leaks by visually inspecting the meter. Confirm that all sources of water use are shut off, then locate your meter. On the top is an odometer, clock-dial, and small red triangle. Observe the triangle for at least a minute—it should be stationary or may wiggle back and forth without completing a full revolution. If it creeps full rotations or spins continually you have a small leak somewhere after the meter in

your household plumbing. Common places to check are sink faucets, toilets, outside faucets, irrigation systems, and boiler reliefs.



Waste per Quarter at 60 psi Water Pressure			
Diameter of Stream	Gallons	Cubic Feet	Cubic Meters
1/4 inch	1,181,500	158,000	4,475
3/16 inch	666,000	89,031	2,521
1/8 inch	296,000	39,400	1,115
1/16 inch	74,000	9,850	280

A continuous leak from a hole this size would, over a three month period, waste water in the amounts shown above

City of Somersworth Water Treatment Facility

WATER...AT YOUR SERVICE.

WATER CONSERVATION IN YOUR HOME



"When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." -Benjamin Franklin

Conserving water is one of the smartest investments your family can make. When you conserve water, you will help to ensure that Somersworth maintains an abundant supply of safe drinking water. Plus, you'll save money!

Somersworth Water Works is providing this conservation flyer to help citizens take charge of their water usage. The tips provided on this sheet will help you lower your water consumption and help us maintain adequate supplies for all our users.

Leaking toilets and dripping faucets are more than a nuisance. They waste water and cost you money. If your water bill skyrockets for no apparent reason, chances are there's a leak somewhere. Finding and fixing household leaks can be easy and inexpensive. Take a few minutes to check for leaks. In the long run it will save you money.

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Just try living without it.

SAVE WATER. Nothing can replace it.

TIPS FOR HOME CONSERVATION

SAVING WATER IN THE HOME

In The Bathroom

1. Take a shower instead of a bath or keep your showers short.
2. Replace your showerhead with a low-flow model that uses 2 gallons per minute or less.
3. Replace your old toilet with a more water efficient one. This can save as much as 5 gallons per flush. You can also use less per flush by installing a water displacement device. One do-it-yourself method is to fill a plastic gallon milk container with water and set it inside your tank. That will reduce your flush by one gallon.
4. Watch carefully for dripping or leaky faucets. A small drip can waste a large amount of water over time.
5. Don't leave the water running while brushing your teeth. Keep it shut off until it's time to rinse.
6. Don't leave the water running while shaving. Fill the sink partially with hot water to rinse the razor instead of rinsing it in the stream. For the same reason, don't shave in the shower...every minute you spend shaving is wasting several gallons of water.
7. Use the toilet for what it is intended, not as a trash disposal. Use a trash can for facial tissues or other items.

In The Laundry Room

1. Wash only when you have a full load. If you must wash a partial load, use the load setting with the correct amount of laundry to be washed.
2. Buy an EnergyStar-rated clothes washer. EnergyStar washers save energy, water, and money in several ways. First of all, they use up to 40% less water than conventional washers. During the spin cycle, they extract more water, meaning less time in the dryer. They use less detergent than regular models, and they also are gentler on your clothes.

In The Kitchen

1. Always operate your dishwasher with a full load. This saves water, energy, detergent, and money. Consider purchasing a new, EnergyStar dishwasher. These models save both energy and water.
2. Don't rinse your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. Dry scrape the food remnants into a trash can instead.
3. Don't leave the water running when you aren't using it.
4. Install faucet aerators. The difference in flow is hardly noticeable, and you'll cut your kitchen sink water consumption in half!
5. Rather than run water from the tap until it is cold, keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking.
6. Using a garbage disposal can waste water unnecessarily. Use them only for really messy stuff. Use the garbage or compost everything else (egg shells, potato peels, etc.).
7. Rinse your vegetables in a pan of cold water rather than under a running faucet.
8. Do not use running water to thaw food.

SAVING WATER OUTDOORS

Increases in water usage over the years have been in residential growth, commerce, and outdoor usage. While this includes commercial uses such as car washes and other industries, the largest outdoor usage overall is lawn irrigation. Although maintaining a green lawn is a point of pride for many homeowners, keeping the grass green doesn't have to mean spending as much green on your water bill.

Here are some tips for conserving water outdoors:

1. Don't over water your lawn. One inch of water per week in the summer will keep most common grasses healthy. In fact, if you pamper your lawn too much by overwatering, the turf will never develop the kind of deep root system needed to keep it healthy long-term. Water your lawn only when needed! To determine if you should water, step on it. If it springs back up, no watering is needed. If it remains flat, time to water!
2. Automatic sprinkler systems are great, but they can sometimes waste a great deal of water if not used and maintained properly. Make sure the system is set to water only when needed. For example, turn the system off after a good rainfall. Check sprinkler heads regularly to make sure they are working properly. Adjust sprinkler heads to avoid unnecessary overspray on sidewalks or driveways.
3. Whenever possible, water during the early morning hours, before the sun is high in the sky. This will allow time for the water to soak into your lawn before the midday sun evaporates it. Also, avoid watering on windy days. Strong winds waste water by blowing water where it's not needed and by speeding up evaporation.
4. Don't "scalp" your lawn. By keeping your lawn 3 inches or taller during the summer, you will help the lawn hold in more moisture. Also, try not to cut more than 1/3 of the lawn's length at one time.
5. Don't clean your sidewalks or patios with a hose...use a large broom to sweep away dirt and debris.
6. Use lots of mulch around your plants and shrubs to retain moisture.
7. If you wash your own vehicles, use a bucket of soapy water to wash and only use the hose for rinsing. Keep the water turned off until you need it.

Never put water down the drain when you can use it for something else, such as watering plants.

DO ONE THING EACH DAY THAT WILL SAVE WATER -- EVERY DROP COUNTS!

DRINKING WATER SOURCES

Water conservation is paramount for preserving resources for our children. Every drop which leaks by is unused and unaccounted water which would otherwise be available where truly needed.

Our water is drawn from the Salmon Falls River. You may think that since the river is always running the water supply is endless, but it takes resources to clean and deliver the water for consumption; and the more we use the less is available for anyone downstream. Water conservation equals energy conservation.

We process water with a ballasted microsand clarification system and four multimedia filter beds, then disinfect and pump into the city's distribution system where it is stored in a pair of one million gallon standpipes, ready to flow to every open tap and hydrant. Finished water production averages 2.5 million gallons per day. That's a lot of clean water available for our customers!

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Water is one of the world's most precious resources and we take seriously the integrity and conservation of our supply. Source water assessment information and comprehensive water quality data may be obtained from the Water Department, please call 603-692-2268 for more information or visit NH Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau web site at:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/index.htm>

Annual Water Quality Reports are available at the office, treatment plant, and online at <http://www.somersworth.com>

For more information regarding water conservation, please visit these websites:

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/water_conservation/index.htm

City of Somersworth

Water Treatment Facility

9 Wells Street

Somersworth, NH 03878

Phone: 603-692-2268 (M-F 7am-3pm)

Fax: 603-692-7247

Billing Office: 603-692-9523

Correspondence: 1 Government Way

E-mail: somersworthwtp@myfairpoint.net

<http://www.somersworth.com>