

# Increased Usage and Leak Detection Tips

## Common Leaks Include:

- Toilets
- Faucets
- Water Heater Pressure Relief & Thermal Relief Valves
- Faulty humidifiers installed on heating and cooling systems
- Outdoor Spigots
- Irrigation Systems
- Underground Supply Lines

## Other Factors to Consider:

- Did the amount of occupants change in your home or did you have guests?
- Were children home from school for an extended period of time?
- Do you have an irrigation system?
- Do you have a humidifier built in to your heating and cooling unit?
- Did a pipe burst?
- Did you fill a pool or spa?

If you suspect a leak you may contact the Town. Our meter technician will investigate the leak by checking the leak indicator on the meter.

It is the homeowners responsibility to resolve the leak.

## Contact Us:

540-338-7093

[www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov)

Businesses and residents are responsible for maintaining their internal and external plumbing systems. Customers are encouraged to repair leaks immediately to protect the water supply and prevent high water bills.

Historically usage increases during the holiday and summer billings. This is due to residents being home more and spring/ summer activities such as watering plants and gardens and using pools and sprinklers.

Do not compare your water usage to your neighbors. There are many variables such as occupants, appliances and conservation of water that affect usage. No two households/ businesses are alike.

## Leak Detection Tips:

### Toilets

Check for toilet leaks by removing the top off the tank and listening very closely. If you hear any hissing, dripping/draining at all, your toilet is leaking.

- If nothing is noticeable, add some food coloring and put a couple of drops in the tank (not the bowl). Wait several minutes and if you have coloring in the bowl, you have a leak in the flapper at the bottom of the tank that is allowing water to seep through.
- If you have more toilets, repeat the process with each toilet to make sure you don't have more than one problem.

## 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         |
| •                     | 3,096        | 92,880         |
| •                     | 4,296        | 128,880        |
| •                     | 6,640        | 199,200        |
| •                     | 6,984        | 209,520        |
| •                     | 8,424        | 252,720        |
| •                     | 9,888        | 296,640        |
| •                     | 11,324       | 339,720        |
| •                     | 12,720       | 381,600        |
| •                     | 14,952       | 448,560        |

### Water Heaters

Check the Pressure Relief Valve and the Thermal Relief Valve on the water tank. Sometimes these valves are plumbed directly into a drain and may be leaking without your knowledge. If you can't remove the drain pipe to check for a leak listen for a hissing sound, it may be leaking.

### Supply Lines

Reduced water pressure, damp patches on the ground, noisy pipework or lush vegetation during particularly dry periods may also indicate that a leak is present on your supply pipe.