

# High Water Consumption Causes



**There are many possible causes for high water consumption. Here are some tips that may help:**

## **First Questions to Ask:**

- Do you have new landscaping, grass, or plants?
- Did you have an extra house guest during this billing cycle?
- Have you increased the frequency or duration in which you water your yard? If you water manually, take care not to over-water.
- If you have a swimming pool, did you fill or drain it during this billing cycle?

## **Next Steps to Take:**

- **Walk Around:** Take a walk around your house. Does the grass in your yard have puddles or large wet spots? Are there spongy areas

## **Facts About Leaks and Water Waste**

- The average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year.
- A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.
- A shower head leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year.
- A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons a day.
- An irrigation system that has a leak  $\frac{1}{32}$  inch in diameter (about the thickness of a dime or the size of the tip of a ballpoint pen) can waste about 6,300 gallons per month.
- A hose can waste 6 gallons per minute if you leave it running.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, [epa.gov/watersense](http://epa.gov/watersense).

in the lawn that ooze water when you step on them? Are there any areas that are greener than the rest of the lawn? If so, these may be indications of a water leak.

- **Check the bathroom:** To check for toilet leaks, put a few drops of colored liquid (soda, coffee, Kool-Aid, etc.) in the tank; wait 15 minutes. If the water in the bowl is now colored, you have a leak. Sometimes these leaks go undetected as they cannot be seen or heard.
- **Do you have an automated irrigation system?** If so, check the timer. During a power outage your timers can reset, causing your system to run continuously when you are not aware. Also, pull up each station manually and check the sprinkler heads to make sure they are not cracked or damaged. Lastly, have you recently installed new sprinkler heads? If so, heads that are installed inappropriately can use more water.
- **Do you have a soaker hose?** Check the hose to make sure there are no large holes or slits allowing extra water to run out. A soaker hose left on for a long period of time can use a lot of water.
- Check all outside spigots for leaks.
- Double check all sinks, bathtubs, and showers for leaky faucets
- **Do you have a water softener?** A faulty timer or stuck solenoid may waste hundreds of gallons of water per day.
- **Evaluate past water bills and consumption:** Compare your water utility bill with past bills, from the same month, to see if the consumption is larger than usual. Keep in mind to check the **consumption**, not the dollar amount of the bill, as water rates might have increased.



**If after going through this checklist you still feel there is no reasonable explanation for your increased usage, feel free to contact our office during normal business hours at 972-744-4120 for further assistance.**

**City of Richardson Water & Sewer Customer Service Department**

411 W. Arapaho Rd., Room 101 • [customer.service@cor.gov](mailto:customer.service@cor.gov) • [cor.net/WaterService](http://cor.net/WaterService)