

## What is “Average Water Usage”?



The water industry estimates\*\* that an average person uses 3,000 gallons of water monthly, so a family of 4 would use 12,000 gallons for bathing, cooking, washing, recreation and watering. But a lot of factors come into play when calculating average use. So in reality, one person's usage may be a lot higher or lower than another person's. Here are some things to think about, if you suspect your water bill is too high:

- Households with backyard swimming pools are likely to see a higher water use in months when the pools are filled and filtered.
- Households with lawns or gardens must factor in the amount of water sprinkled on grass, flowers and vegetables. Outdoor watering uses 5 to 10 gallons per minute. So in 10 or 20 minutes, you may use 100 gallons – the amount industry experts estimate is used by an average person each day for all personal water needs. If the climate turns unseasonably dry, expect to use even more water to keep your garden alive and your grass green.
- The number of people in the household is an important factor. Water use generally rises if your family grows.
- A family with fashion conscious teenagers probably washes more clothes more often than an older person who lives alone. More water is used per load when the machine is set on high.
- If you take a tub bath, you will use about 42 gallons of water, compared with the 17 gallons required for a shower. New shower heads, however, reduce the water used in an average shower to just 2 gallons per minute versus 5 or 6 gallons that spurt out of older shower heads.
- One toilet flush will use 5 to 7 gallons unless it is in a new home where 1.5 gallon commodes are required.

WATER USE CHART		Gallons per Month	Cubic/Feet per Month	Cost* per Month
Dripping Faucet (0.25 GPM)	=	10,800	1,444	\$ 21.80
Leaking Toilet (0.5 GPM)	=	21,600	2,888	\$ 43.60
Drip Irrigation (1 GPM)	=	43,200	5,775	\$ 87.20
Watering Garden – 2 hrs	=	18,000	2,406	\$ 36.33
Watering Garden – 4 hrs	=	36,000	4,813	\$ 72.67
Broken Houseline (15 GPM)	=	648,000	86,625	\$ 1,308.04
Stuck Commercial Ice Machine (2 GPM)	=	86,400	11,550	\$ 174.41
Stuck Check Valve Washing Machine	=	4,800	642	\$ 9.69
Stuck Float at Watering Trough (5 GPM)	=	216,000	28,875	\$ 436.01
1 Bath = 42 gallons x30 baths/month	=	1,260	168	\$ 2.54
1 Shower = 17 gallons x 30 showers/month	=	510	68	\$ 1.03
Washing Machine (45 gallons/Load x 20 per month)	=	900	120	\$ 1.82
Toilet Flush (7 gallons/flush x 5 flushes/day)	=	1,050	140	\$ 2.12
* Tier 1 rate = \$1.51/100 Cubic Feet				

\*\* The above figures are estimates only.