

The Costly Drip

The cost of water varies for U.S. households from town to town; however, on average Americans spend around \$2.00 per 1000 gallons of water. This averages out to around \$612 on water and sewage per year, not to mention the cost of heating water, which on average adds an additional \$230 per year.

The average family of four uses 600 gallons of water a day, 18,000 gallons of water per month, and approximately 216,000 gallons a year and wastes, on average, more than 10,000 gallons of water every year due to running toilets, dripping faucets or other household leaks. Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes each year. That adds up to a lot of water and a huge waste of one of our most precious natural resources!



Homeowners still have to pay for water that is lost through leaking fixtures or pipes, not to mention the energy dollars lost if it is a hot water leak. Even a small drip can waste up to 50-100 gallons of water a week and this small leak can cost you in higher utility bills. You could literally be throwing money down the drain!

You should be aware of signs that you have a leak including a sudden increase in your water bill or a noticeable dampness on your walls or floor. Sometimes, however, you may have a “silent leak” and may not even be aware. These “silent leaks” can go undetected for long periods of time, potentially wasting thousands of gallons of water.

Having a plumber come out to your home to perform an audit can help you locate and fix leaks in your home. If you suspect a leak, call a plumber and get it fixed immediately. Leaks cost you money in wasted water, not to mention the potential damage they could cause to your home.

Fix leaks right away; don't wait until they become expensive problems. Fixing a leaking faucet will not only lower your monthly utility bills, but also prevent further damage to your home while conserving water for future generations. Don't let your water, and your money, go down the drain... stop that drip now!

Sources:

Mayer, P.W.; DeOreo, W.B. et al. (1999). "[Residential End Uses of Water](#)". American Water Works Association Research Foundation, Denver, CO. Retrieved 2009-02-24.; The study covered 1,188 households in 14 cities over 3 years.

www.Leakbird.com

www.water.org

<http://www.mde.state.md.us>

www.epa.gov/watersense/