



Think your water bill is too high? The culprit might be a leak!

According to the U.S Geological Society the average American uses about 80-100 gallons of water per day. The total you use will depend on your habits and the type of fixtures you have installed in your home but, on average, an individual will use about 2,400 to 4,000 gallons per month. The table below outlines average consumption ranges based on the total number of people living in your house. If your usage rates are well beyond these ranges based on household size, you may want to consider water conservation efforts or exploring whether your house has a leak.

Household Size	Ave. Monthly Range
1	2,400 to 3,000
2	4,800 to 6,000
3	7,200 to 9,000
4	9,600 to 12,000
5	12,000 to 15,000
6	14,400 to 18,000

As a courtesy to residents, the city's utility billing department will often contact homeowners whose water use spikes dramatically from one billing period to the next. For some homeowners this might be the result of hosting guests or a one-time activity (filling a pool or hot tub), but for many others this signals that something is leaking. The leading culprits are typically a leaking toilet, a broken faucet, or a malfunctioning water softener.

The City of Durand has staff trained to identify possible causes of high water usage and we are happy to assist homeowners who believe their high usage might be the result of a leak. Please note, the city is not able to fix leaks or perform plumbing work but we can identify problem areas and recommend corrective actions. Even if there is a not a leak, an older, less efficient toilet can have a big impact on your water bill. Older toilets use between 3.5 and 7 gallons of water per flush. Compare that to the average 1.6 gallons used by a newer toilet. Below are some examples of how small problems can lead to big bills:

Problem	Wasted Water/Month	Cost/Month*
Toilet (running 15 min/day)	3,150 gallons	\$38.43
Toilet (running 1 hr/day)	12,600 gallons	\$153.72
Toilet (running 3 hr/day or 3.75 days straight)	37,800 gallons	\$461.16
Older Toilet (vs. newer model)	2,430 gallons	\$24.83**
Water softener (malfunction)	6,000+ gallons	\$73.20+

**based on 18/19 water and sewer rates per 1,000 gallons used; estimates only | **based on a three person household*

Even if your bill just seems a bit high, we strongly encourage customers to consider contacting our office. Utility billing staff can review your usage history and indicate if your recent water usage is higher than normal. Believe it or not, the City of Durand really wants to make sure our residents are not overpaying for water and sewer. High use checks, meter testing, and ongoing monitoring are time consuming and costly. These recurring issues take staff away from addressing other system repairs and maintenance. Everyone benefits when we work together to target and fix trouble spots! Learn more about water conservation here: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/start-saving> or call us to discuss your water usage rates.