

WHY IS MY WATER BILL SO HIGH?

We have all opened a Water Bill and asked ourselves why is my bill so high. Typically when you receive a water bill that is higher than normal it indicates that you have a leak on the premises. The most common area for a leak is your toilet. In the back of the toilet tank there is a "flapper", this is the rubber plug that is attached to the chain. Over time, flappers deteriorate and start to allow water to leak from the tank into the bowl of the toilet. This causes your tank to drain and fill up over and over. Over a 90 day billing period this can severely impact your water consumption.

How to check your Toilet for leaks

1. Remove the Tank lid from back of Toilet.
2. Put 4 to 5 drops of food coloring into tank water (enough to discolor the water)
3. Wait 20 minutes without flushing the toilet, go back and check the bowl of the toilet.
4. If the colored water has moved into the bowl and you have not flushed the toilet, then your flapper needs replaced.
5. After repairing a bad flapper you need to die test the new one to make sure it's working properly.

How to check your Humidifier

Humidifiers attached to a furnace are another area that can cause high water usage. In the winter we tend to run the humidifier. The way to tell if your humidifier is adjusted right is to follow the drain line coming out of the bottom of humidifier to the drain in the floor. Pull the drain line from the humidifier out of the floor drain and place a pan under it overnight. In the morning, see if water has collected in the pan. If you find water in the pan you know you have it turned up too high. Keep backing off the adjustment until you no longer have water in the pan. Check your outside hose bibs to make sure they are completely turned off and not leaking. In the winter time they may freeze up and break the control valve inside the valve head allowing water to escape.

Water Softeners

Water Softeners can be another area associated with high water consumption. Some Softeners have a "Water Recycling" mode. (Consult your manual to see if this applies to yours) If you have a model that has this option your Water Softener will empty all the water in your Softener into the sewer drain periodically and refill it. If it is not working properly it could be cycling through this option more than necessary causing your water consumption to increase. The quality of Water hardness in Reynoldsburg does not require you to have a Water Softener. If you have one you can consult your manual on how to use the Bypass option for it, if you decide not to use it.

How to check the rest of the House

Once you have performed these tests, you want to make sure you don't have any internal leaks. The easiest way to do this is to do an overnight water meter reading. Before you go to bed at night, go to the water meter inside house and write the numbers off of it from left to right. Do not use any water overnight. If anyone has to use the restroom overnight do not flush the toilet. In the morning before anyone uses any water take another reading from water meter. If the numbers have changed and you have not used any water, you have a leak somewhere inside the house. If this occurs, you will need to contact a plumber to do further testing.