



What does my toilet really cost me?

Toilets account for 26% of the water used in the average home. Federal plumbing standards now specify that new toilets sold use no more than 1.6 gallons per flush, but toilets older than 1992 use 3.5 to 5 gallons per flush.

Operating a toilet costs more money than you might think. Whenever the toilet is flushed, you are charged for both the water and sewer fees that go along with your toilets consumption. Low flow toilets that use 1.6 gallons/flush can really pay off. Let’s look at the math:

Toilet consumption	Flushes per day*	Gallons used per year	Cost per gallon**	Toilet cost per year
1.6 gallons/flush	5	2920	\$0.02	\$58.40
3 gallons/flush	5	5475	\$0.02	\$109.05
5 gallons/flush	5	9125	\$0.02	\$182.50

* National estimates say that each person flushes the toilet five times daily.

** based on the 08/15/2022 PCPSA Rates

Water Appliance Usage and Leak Rates

Lavatory, Sink, Shower, Faucet			
Drips Per Minute	Wasted Per Month	Water Wasted Per Year	Average Annual Cost* for Water And Sewer
10	43 Gallons	516 Gallons	\$ 10.32
30	130 Gallons	1,560 Gallons	\$ 31.20
60	259 Gallons	3,108 Gallons	\$ 62.16
120	518 Gallons	6,216 Gallons	\$ 124.32
300	1,296 Gallons	15,552 Gallons	\$ 311.04
500	2,160 Gallons	25,920 Gallons	\$ 518.40
Toilet Usage and Leak Rates			
Silent Leak			
300 Gallons/Day	9,000 Gallons	108,000 Gallons	\$ 2,160.00
Audible Leak			
500 Gallons/Day	15,000 Gallons	180,000 Gallons	\$ 3,600.00

*Based on 08/15/2022 PCPSA Rates

Where is the Water Going?

In an average residence, 22 gallons of water are lost to leakage each day, and the most common culprits are leaking toilets or dripping faucets. This daily leakage volume is about equal to the amount of drinking water a family of 3 needs for two full weeks! The annual water and sewer cost for 22 gallons of leakage is \$160 per household.

It is not uncommon to find toilets leaking much more water than the average 22 gallons. Silent toilet leaks can account for up to 300 gallons of day of lost water without anybody noticing the leakage. This size of leak costs over \$2,000 dollars a year and should be repaired immediately. A dye tablet or 10 drops of food coloring can be used to check a toilet for leaks. Place the tablet or food coloring into the toilet tank. If color appears in the bowl after waiting 10 minute, you have a leaking toilet.