

Water Waste: It's Easier Than You Might Think

Most of us don't think much about the dripping faucet, leaky hose, whistling toilet, or swampy sprinkler head we may live with for months. However, they are continuous forms of water waste that add up faster than you might think. The table below illustrates how quickly a tiny leak can turn into a big water bill. The "Drip Table" allows you to estimate the effects of dripping faucets.

A leak you can measure by cupfuls or more is an obvious problem few of us would ignore. A dripping faucet is harder to measure and easier to let go "for now". As "for now" stretches to weeks, the water waste adds up, often much faster than we imagine.

The amount of water dripping slowly from a faucet is difficult to generalize about. Not only do drop sizes vary, but terms like "slow drip" are fairly subjective concepts.

What one person considers "slow" might seem someone else. To measure a leak, count drops seconds, then check the table below to see how water your result adds up to in a day, a billing about 60 days, or a year. A drop of 1 drop per wastes about 60 drops per minute, 5 gallons a gallons a billing cycle, and 1,800 gallons if for a year. Perhaps five gallons doesn't seem of an individual. Consider the community though: If half our single-family residential found and fixed a 1 drip per second leak, this about 170 million gallons, or 500 acre feet.

<p>What's a "Drop"? Unfortunately, a "drop" of water is not a scientific measurement, because the volume of a drop is affected by variables like the size and shape of the outlet the drop is coming through. For example, there are five "faucet drops" in a milliliter, but twenty "eyedropper drops." Even a drop of rain can vary in size depending on things chemistry classes do experiments with, like surface tension.</p>	<p>fast to for 30 much cycle of second day, 150 neglected like a lot effects, customers would save day in a</p>
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A toilet can waste those same five gallons per single unnecessary flush.

Fix A Leaky Toilet? Sure!

A leaking toilet pouring water down its outflow tube can easily consume an additional 100-250 gallons per day. A stream of water the thickness of a pencil, from a faucet or sprinkler head, filling a cup in 30 seconds equals 1 pint per minute and nearly 5,500 gallons per 30 day billing period.

Wasting Water Is Easy: Drops Add Up				
If a leak has a continuous flow of:	It wastes the following number of gallons in:			
	Drops/Minute	1 Day	1 Bill Period	1 Year
5 drops in 30 seconds	10 dpm	0.8	24	292
10 drops in 30 seconds	20 dpm	1.6	48	584
15 drops in 30 seconds	30 dpm	2.4	72	876
20 drops in 30 seconds	40 dpm	3.2	96	1168
25 drops in 30 seconds	50 dpm	4	120	1460
30 drops in 30 seconds	60 dpm	4.8	144	1752
35 drops in 30 seconds	70 dpm	5.6	168	2044
40 drops in 30 seconds	80 dpm	6.4	192	2336
45 drops in 30 seconds	90 dpm	7.2	216	2628
50 drops in 30 seconds	100 dpm	8	240	2920
55 drops in 30 seconds	110 dpm	8.8	264	3212
60 drops in 30 seconds	120 dpm	9.6	288	3504
* Based on 30 days average per billing period; 365 days/year.				