



Common Reasons for High Water Consumption

Change in Consumption Patterns

An increase in consumption compared to a previous bill, could be a result of changes in consumption patterns. If you are questioning your consumption for a specific period, you may want to first consider the following:

Did you have company at your home during the period that the billing covers which resulted in an increase in showers, dishes, flushing of toilets, etc.?

Did you fill your pool in the spring or during the summer months? Even filling a kiddie pool on a regular basis or turning on a sprinkler for children can result in a noticeable increase in consumption.

Are you watering your lawn during the summer months? Even watering once a week for 7 hours can use up to 8m³ of water and represents a \$5.00 per month increase to your bill.

Changes in consumption patterns that result in increased consumption can significantly increase the amount that you are billed.

Leaks in Your Home

High water consumption can sometimes be a result of internal plumbing issues / leaks within your home. Even a small sized leak can result in a significant increase in water consumption and a large increase to your bill.

Leaks in Your Home

The following chart shows the amount of water that can be lost as a result of a leak within your home and the impact that a leak can have on the amount that you are billed:

(1m³ = 1000 Litres)

Leak Size	1/16 inch	1/8 inch	1/4 inch
Cubic Metres Per Day	3.6m ³	14.4m ³	56.7m ³
Cubic Metres Per Month	108m ³	432m ³	1729m ³
Cost Per Day	\$3	\$9	\$37
Cost Per Month	\$70	\$281	\$1124



Leaking Toilets

High water consumption is often the result of leaking toilets. If you hear water running continuously after a toilet is flushed, it is likely that you have a leak. This is normally due to worn or misaligned parts. It is also possible to have a silent toilet leak. One way that you can test whether you have a toilet leak is by adding food colouring to the toilet tank. Don't flush the toilet and wait 20 minutes. If the food colouring ends up in the toilet bowl then you have a toilet leak. A toilet leak can waste up to 30m³ of water per month and add approximately \$84 per month to your bill.

Appliances

Use of older appliances (dishwashers, washing machines, water softeners) that are not as efficient as newer models can have an impact on the amount of water that you use. Depending on the age of the appliance, replacement may be something to consider. Malfunctioning appliances can also result in an increase in water use. Water softeners stuck in regeneration mode is a common cause of high consumption and can add hundreds of dollars to your bill. Automatic humidifiers connected to your furnace can also be a cause of high consumption. If you hear water running, you should try to determine the source.



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