



The Cost of Water Waste

Water is our most precious resource. Doing everything in our power to prevent water waste helps to conserve this vital resource while saving money. Two main sources of water waste are leaks and the over-watering of lawns and gardens.

LEAKING TOILETS

High volume water leaks often come from toilets. They are hard to detect and are usually caused by worn or misaligned parts. A toilet that continues to run after flushing could be wasting 20-40 litres per hour - that's 175,000 to 350,000 litres per year, enough water to fill a swimming pool. Leaks can cost you up to \$355 per year.



FINDING A TOILET LEAK

To check for a toilet leak, use a dye tablet or food colouring. Carefully remove the toilet tank lid. Place a dye tablet or some food colouring in the tank. Wait about 15 minutes without flushing. After 15 minutes check the water in your toilet bowl. If the water is coloured, you've got a leak. Toilet repairs may require the assistance of a plumber. **To get a dye tablet, call the CRD Water Department at 474-9684.**



WATER SAVING TOILETS

For additional water and dollar savings replace your water guzzling toilet(s) with a 6-litre or less model. A family of four can save up to 80,000 litres of water a year. Call CRD's Demand Management Information Line at **474-9684** for information about the **Fixture Replacement Program**.

FAUCETS & SHOWERHEADS

Leaking faucets and showerheads are also big water wasters but they are easier to detect than toilet leaks. Worn washers or seats are the most likely cause of leaks in these fixtures. Repairing leaky faucets is usually a straightforward and inexpensive job, but well worthwhile because a little drip can waste lots of water and dollars.



A LITTLE DRIP CAN MEAN A LOT!

An intermittent drip from your faucet or showerhead can waste more than 35,000 litres of water or (35 cubic meters) a year, costing up to \$35. This amount of wasted water would fill a bathtub 184 times! The costs can add up quickly!



Remember if dripping water is hot water your energy dollars are also going down the drain!

LEAKING PIPES

A leaking service line or pipe in your home can add up to serious water waste. A small hole in a pipe (1.5mm) wastes 280,000 litres of water in a three-month period. Continual leaking from this size hole could cost you about \$285 in that three month time period. This is enough water to do about 900 loads of laundry!

WATER SYSTEM LEAKS

Whether you use an in-ground system or a single oscillating head, check it carefully for leaks. The average garden hose delivers 27 litres of water a minute, so a split in the hose or a poor coupling could be wasting large amounts of water. Make sure the outdoor faucet is turned off after each use, even small drips add up to big waste. Use garden water as wisely as possible. Consider using drip irrigation, and use a □ watering can wherever possible.

A leak in your in-ground system is less noticeable than one in a hose, and can waste even greater amounts of water. If you think your in-ground system may have a leak, check for wet □ patches in your lawn that do not dry. Contact your irrigation contractor for a system check-up.



AVOID OVER-WATERING

In-ground sprinkler systems are convenient and □ if properly installed and maintained they can □ provide efficient irrigation. Sprinkler systems do use a lot of water. Most spray or rotor sprinkler heads use between 7 and 11 litres of water per minute, per head. These systems should operate for a maximum of 10 minutes – twice a week – on permitted watering days.



A single oscillating head uses 27 litres a minute. Watering your lawn for an hour uses about the same amount of water as 5 dishwasher loads. If you run your sprinkler for 5 hours a week the cost is about \$35 per month.

BE A LEAK DETECTIVE



The best way to check for overall leaks is to use your water meter. Follow these simple steps to determine if you have a leak.

1. Shut off all your water-using appliances and fixtures, □ including the automatic icemaker in the fridge.
2. Remove the lid from your meter box.* It is usually concrete or metal – about 10x15 inches. Take care not to damage the wires!
3. For new meters, watch the triangle in the middle of the meter for a few minutes. In older meters watch the 10 gallon hand. If neither moves, you don't have a leak.
4. If you have a leak, you will need to play detective to find the source. The most likely culprits are toilets, faucets, showerheads, service lines and sprinkler systems.

***PLEASE NOTE: CRD ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE OR INJURY RESULTING FROM THE REMOVAL OF METER LIDS; CUSTOMERS DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK!**



For more great water saving ideas call or visit:
CRD Water Department
479 Island Highway - Victoria, B.C. V9B 1H7
Phone: (250) 474-9684
Visit us on-line at - www.crd.bc.ca/water

