

NOTICE

It has come to our attention that your current City of Clare utility bill shows a high amount of actual usage. Some of the reasons for the high usage could be:

- ◆ Actual usage (pool filling, lawn/garden watering, etc...);
- ◆ Leaks;
- ◆ Defective meter.

Our studies have shown that the average household without a water softener uses approximately 2,000 gallons per person/per month. Those with a water softener, more than one bathroom, etc..., may use more. Billing history shows your average monthly usage to be _____ (thousand gallons).

Some interesting facts about leaks are:

- ⊕ Leakage accounts for 5% to 10% of all residential consumption.
- ⊕ A leak of 1 drop per second equals 7 gallons of water per day or 2,555 gallons per year
- ⊕ A steady drip may waste 20 gallons of water per day or 7,300 gallons per year.
- ⊕ A trickle may waste 200 gallons of water per day or 73,000 gallons per year.
- ⊕ A serious type of leak in the toilet tank may waste as much as 200 gallons or more per day and never make a sound.

Most leaks are due to worn out faucet washers and faulty tank valves. To check for a "silent" leak in your toilet, remove the tank cover and pour red food coloring in the tank – preferably at a time when the toilet will be unused for several hours. If the color seeps into the bowl, the flush ball needs to be replaced.

If you are watering outside, you may want to look into water-saving devices. A $\frac{3}{4}$ " garden hose uses 1,140 gallons per hour while a $\frac{1}{2}$ " garden hose only uses 360 gallons per hour. A pistol-grip nozzle (spring shut-off) on garden hoses also avoids waste. Fine mist sprinklers should be avoided because too much water is lost in wind and evaporation. Watering your lawn or garden in **early** morning will help prevent evaporation losses. Make sure your outdoor spigots are not leaking. Sometimes a customer will have an outdoor spigot that "drips a little". However, those little drips all add up on your water usage and on your sewer usage as well as **sewer charges are based on water usage.**

It is true... **the City of Clare does not give credits for leaking** due to faulty plumbing or letting the water run to prevent pipes freezing due to poor insulation. We also do not give credits when the usage makes a sudden increase one month and is back to normal the next month. Our reasoning behind this is that a meter will not break and then fix itself. Quite often customers use the water, then when they receive the bill, they stop the usage (watering, washing vehicles, etc...) and the next bill will be "back to normal".

If you are aware of any leaks or extra usage, please disregard this notice. If you are not aware of any problems, please call Cathy at 386-7541, ext. 201 to schedule a meter appointment. The home owner or his agent will need to be present during the appointment as we need to come inside the home and check all plumbing, as well as conducting a time test on the meter. Our personnel will be happy to tell you of any leaks noted. However, it is the homeowner's responsibility to fix all leaks.

**Check out our website at
cityofclare.org
where you can check your bill balance and/or pay on line**

HIGH USAGE CHECK LIST – EMAIL TO cdavis@cityofclare.org or fax to 989/386-4508

Service Address:	
Name as it appears on bill:	
Your Name (if different than above):	
Telephone Number:	
Today's date:	
How many people reside in this home?	
Were there extra people during the billing period in questions?	
How many bathrooms in the home?	
Do you have a washing machine? If yes, how many loads of laundry per week?	
Do you have an automatic dishwasher? If yes, how often is it run?	
Is there a water softener?	
If yes, how often does the water softener recycle?	
Do you have Hot Water Heat?	
Have you been using water outdoors? Running sprinklers or washing vehicles?	
Do you have a swimming pool?	
If yes, size?	
How often do you add water to the pool?	
How many outdoor spigots do you have?	
Have you recently fixed any leaks?	
Are you aware of any leaks that currently need repair?	
<i>Additional Comments:</i>	

Leak This Size	Water Loss in Gallons	
	Per Day	Per Month
•	185	5,550
●	735	22,050
●	1,655	49,650
●	2,945	88,350
●	6,620	198,600
●	11,770	353,100
●	18,395	551,850
●	26,485	794,550
●	36,050	1,081,500
●	47,090	1,412,700