

# Be a Leak Seeker!

**We need your help!**  
**Leaks cost you money – report them.**  
 Leaks never fix themselves and usually cause pipe failure and outages.

Rural Water Fact: A leak failure will happen at the worst possible time and happen where the most people are affected.

1. **CHECK EVERY FAUCET FOR LEAKS. JUST A SLOW DRIP CAN WASTE 15 OR 20 GALLONS A DAY.**
2. **PUT A BIT OF FOOD COLORING IN THE TOILET TANK TO SEE IF IT LEAKS INTO THE BOWL.**

Quite often, a water customer has looked at his water bill when it is received at the first of the month in shock and disbelief. Suddenly his usage has jumped incredibly higher! Often the first reaction is to call the rural water system office to report that “that crazy meter” just can’t be right!

Meters do not register too much! All meters are guaranteed accurate within 2%. The meter we use is so designed that it is impossible for it to read too much. In most cases, the water meter registers less gallonage than actually goes through because of slippage and wear.

## WATER LOSS COSTS

Example of leakage at 60 p.s.i.

Stream Diameter	Waste Per Month
1/4" .....	393,833 gallons
1/8" .....	98,666 gallons
1/16" .....	24,666 gallons
1/32" .....	6,166 gallons

As you can see, even the smallest leaks can add up to a large amount in a month's time.

## HOW MUCH WATER DO YOU USE?

Listed below are averages for water use around the house and farm. Information was taken from The Private Water Systems handbook.

### Home and Outdoor Living Water Requirements

Use	Flow Rate gal/min	Total Use gallons
Adult or child		50-100/day
Baby		100/day
Automatic washer	5	30-50/load
Dishwasher	2	7-15/load
Garbage disposal	3	4-6/day
Kitchen sink (a)	3	2-4/use
Shower or tub (a)	5	25-60/use
Toilet flush (b)	3	4-7/use
Bathroom lavatory	2	1-2/use
Water softener regeneration (c)	5	50-100/time
Outside hose faucet (d)	5	2400/2-hr. period
Fire Protection (e)	10	1200/2-hr. period

(a)Water flow restricting valves and shower heads can reduce flow and water use by up to 50%.

(b)Ordinary toilet: low flow toilets will reduce water usage by 40%-90%

(c)Water hardness, softener size, etc. will affect water use.

(d)20 gpm at 60psi

(e)for limited fire fighting: at least 10 gpm with 1/4" nozzle at 30 psi for 2 hr/day

Approximate farm water requirements		Water user per Animal	
Milking cow	20-25 gals.	Beef animal	8-12 gals.
Dry cow	10-15 gals.	Sheep	2 gals.
Calves (1-1 1/2 gal/100 lb. body weight)	6-10 gals.	Horse	12 gals.
Swine, finishing	3-5 gals.	100 chicken layers	9 gals.
Nursery	1 gals.	100 turkeys	15 gals.
Sow & letter	8 gals.		
Gestating sow	6 gals.		