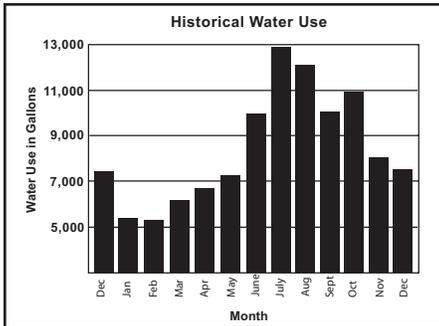


Easy Steps to Cut Your Water Usage and Save Money

Water leaks are bound to happen over time. Catching and correcting them early is the key to saving the most amount of water and paying less on your monthly bill. Try the list below to find potential leaks around your home or place of business.



Compare your current usage to previous months.



Fix dripping faucets promptly.



If your showerhead is leaking, it may be time to replace it.

- Make sure to examine the water usage on your utility bill. Compare your current usage to previous months. Go to your online Austin Utility Account at www.coautilities to view your past monthly water usage. Unusually high water usage may indicate a leak. This is especially important for customers with leveled billing, who may not notice an increase until the next year's billing amount is calculated.
- Check your water meter. Write down the meter reading, and check it again a few hours later. (Make sure not to use any water while performing this test.)
- A slow leak can sometimes be detected by watching the small triangle located on your water meter. If it is moving or changes position, that could indicate a slow leak. (Make sure not to use any water while performing this test.)
- An in-ground irrigation system can be damaged and should be checked routinely, and particularly before turning a system back on after the winter months. Run the short 1-2 minute test cycle on your controller and walk around during operation to look for broken heads, misting and overspray.
- Look for a build-up of algae on the ground or on the walls around your outdoor spigot. The moisture that allows the algae to grow may be the result of an undetected leak.
- Soggy spots in your yard or uneven/ excessive vegetation growth in certain areas can be an indication of a leak in your underground water pipes.
- Standing water or unexplained moisture around the foundation of your house could mean your underground pipes have become damaged and are leaking.
 - Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 about minutes (flush as soon as the test is complete, since food coloring may stain bowl).
 - Showerheads wear out over time. If your showerhead is leaking, it may be time to replace it. Austin Water is currently offering free low-flow showerheads.
 - If your property has a pool, pay close attention to the water level during the summer months. Use a grease pencil to mark the current water level, turn off any automatic fill valves, and watch the level over 24 hours. A significant drop, especially in cooler months, may indicate a leak. Be sure to check the pumps as well as the area around the water pump for any signs of escaping water.
 - Fix dripping faucets promptly. Even a small leak of one drip per second can waste over 2,000 gallons per year – a steady trickle wastes even more.

