



A message from the City of Taylor



## Why water efficiency is important

The City of Taylor is currently undergoing a significant upgrade in water meter technology. Old and often inefficient meters are being replaced with high-tech digital models that enable our water department to read meters without entering the home or business, helping to reduce or eliminate the need for estimated water bills. This is a very large project. The water department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 308 miles of water mains and over 248 miles of sanitary sewer mains.

During this changeover, you may receive billing numbers that you have not previously experienced. As we entered our first billing cycle after this changeover, a significant percentage of our users saw either credits (for overcharges) or debts (for undercharges).

Your water bill has always indicated whether you were receiving an actual meter read (“A”) or an estimated (“E”) reading. An estimated billing can be the result of many factors: inaccessibility to the meter, dead batteries, etc. While most short-term estimated bills are accurate, estimations over an extended period of time can cause problems. If you are receiving an estimated reading, please call (734) 287-6550.

### Important things to know:

- If you have been overcharged for any reason, your water account will be credited.
- If you have been undercharged and need to make payments arrangements, please call (734) 287-6550.
- If you have a question about your bill or need assistance in either of these areas, please call the City of Taylor immediately at (734) 287-6550. Special staff members have been assigned to these issues and will be available to help you.

The average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year, or the amount of water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry. Household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons annually nationwide. That's equal to the annual household water use of more than 11 million homes. Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills.

### Detecting Leaks:

A good method to check for leaks is to **examine your winter water usage**. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month. Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.

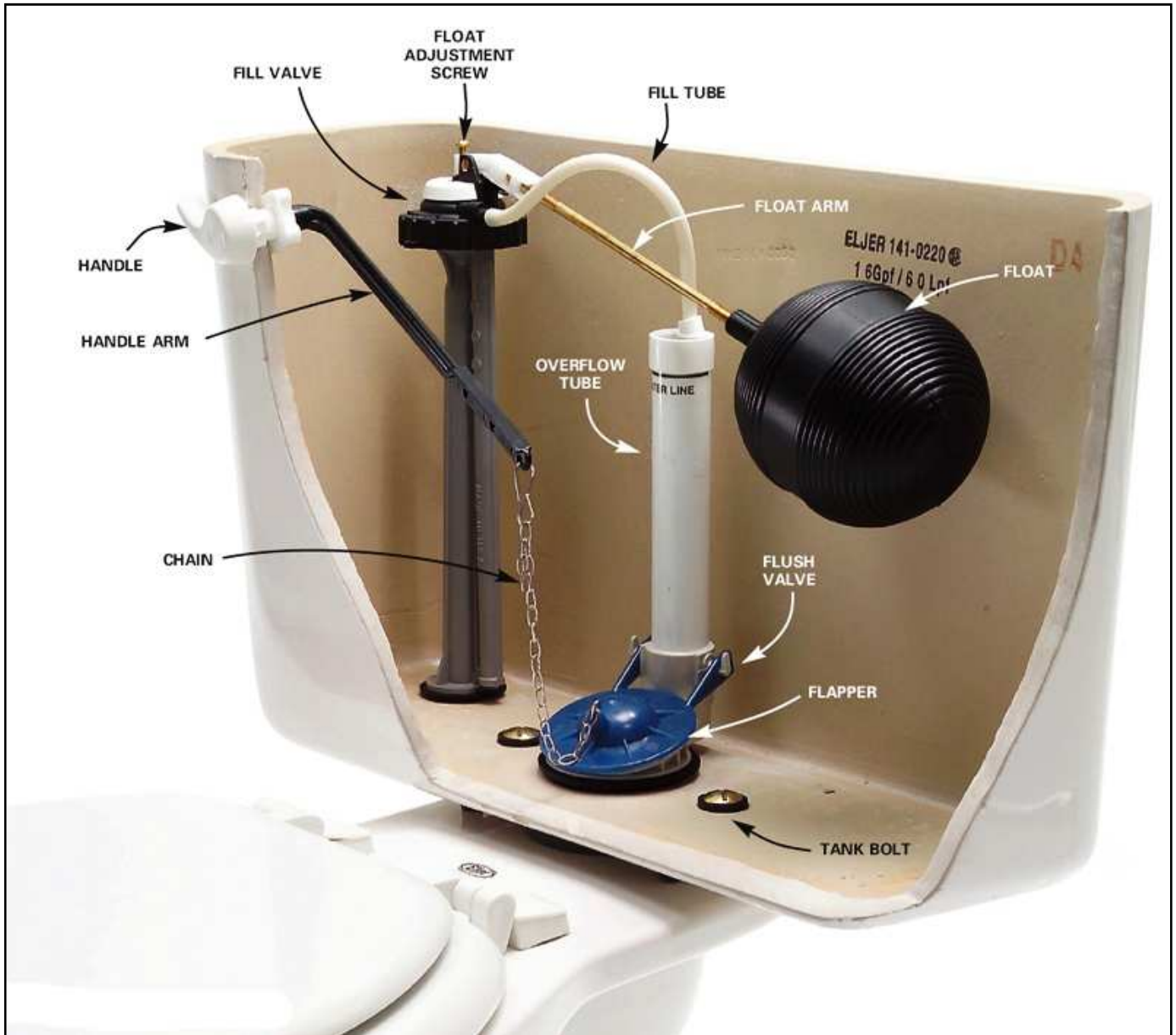
One way to find out if you have a **toilet leak** is to place a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing, you have a leak. Make sure to flush immediately after this experiment to avoid staining the tank.

A **leaky faucet** that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. That's the amount of water needed to take more than 180 showers. Leaky faucets can be fixed by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary. A **showerhead leaking** at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year. That's the amount of water it takes to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher. Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by ensuring a tight connection using pipe tape and a wrench.

If your toilet is leaking, the cause is often an old, faulty toilet flapper. Over time, this inexpensive rubber part decays, or minerals build up on it. It's usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper—a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.

If you do need to replace the entire toilet, look for a WaterSense labeled model. If the average family replaces its older, inefficient toilets with new WaterSense labeled ones, it could save 13,000 gallons per year. Retrofitting the house could save the family nearly \$2,400 in water and wastewater bills over the lifetime of the toilets.

Any **outdoor irrigation system** should be checked each spring before use to make sure it was not damaged by frost or freezing. An irrigation system that has a leak 1/32nd of an inch in diameter (about the thickness of a dime) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month. Also check your **garden hose** for leaks at its connection to the spigot. If it leaks while you run your hose, replace the hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.



| Size of Leak | Gallons per DAY (if water pressure is 60 lbs/sq. | Water/Sewer Cost per DAY at .009 per gallon | Gallons per WEEK (60 psi) | Water/Sewer Cost per WEEK at .009 per gallon | Gallons per MONTH (60 psi) | Water/Sewer Costs per MONTH at .009 per gallon |
|--------------|--|---|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| 1/16"        | 360  | \$3.24                                      | 2520                      | \$22.68                                      | 10,800                     | \$97.20  |
| 1/8"         | 3,096  | \$27.87                                     | 21,672                    | \$195.05                                     | 92,880                     | \$835.92                                       |
| 3/16"        | 8,424  | \$75.82                                     | 58,968                    | \$530.72                                     | 252,720                    | \$2274.48                                      |
| 5/16"        | 11,324   | \$101.92                                    | 79,268                    | \$713.42                                     | 339,720                    | \$3057.48                                      |
| 1/4"         | 14,952   | \$134.57                                    | 104,664                   | \$941.98                                     | 448,560                    | \$4037.04                                      |