



280 S. Maple St. P.O. Box 435 Grant, MI 49327

Water/Sewer Usage Information

****Remember, your water/sewer bill is really TWO utility bills in one, to pay for clean treated water and to pay for treatment of unclean water****

Did you know that it takes...

- Two gallons of water to brush your teeth-with running water
- Four gallons of water to flush a toilet
- Eleven gallons of water to run a dishwasher
- Twenty gallons of water to wash dishes in a sink with water running
- Twenty-five gallons of water for a 5 minute shower
- Thirty-five gallons of water for a bath
- Forty gallons of water to run a washing machine per load (for clothes)

If you feel your water/sewer bill is unusually high, consider the following list of possible reasons that could cause high water usage, which in turn results in high sewer usage:

- **Leaking Toilets:** A leaking toilet is one of the most common causes of high water bill complaints. A leaking toilet with a stream of 1/16-inch in diameter could run an additional 74,000 gallons of water through over a three month billing period. An easy way to check toilets for leaks is to put food coloring in the toilet tank. If the toilet is leaking, the food coloring will show up in the toilet bowl.
- **Leaking Faucets:** Check faucets for leaks, even a faucet with a small drip can waste a lot of water, many times a simple washer replacement solves the problem. A small drip can waste as much as 3 to 15 gallons of water a day.

Other useful facts and information:

- **Water Heaters:** Drain some water out of the water heater on a regular schedule to clean out the rust and sediment that settles to the bottom of a water heater.
- **Rotten Egg Taste or Odor:** Water heaters are equipped with a magnesium rod that is used to protect the interior of the heater from rusting, however as the tank gets older sometimes the magnesium rod causes the hot water to have taste and odor problems. Have your water heater checked!
- **Lawn Sprinkling:** Don't sprinkle your lawn during the day in real hot weather as water is wasted by evaporation. Sprinkle in the early morning or in the evening.
- **Dishwashers:** Run only full loads. Remodel with machines that use less water and are more energy efficient.
- **Showers:** Take shorter showers, or install water saving shower heads.
- **Bathing:** Conserve water by only partially filling the tub.

Citizens that may live outside of the water and sewer service area may not get a quarterly water and sewer bill, but they do have to pay for many things related that they do not realize including iron filters, water softeners, bags of water softener salt, high electric bills (for the well pump), higher electric bills when they have leaks (because the well is pumping even more), septic tank treatments to name a few. These citizens may also have to spend tens of thousands of dollars to replace a septic and drain field or a well. City water always works even when the power is out, while those on a well do not have access to water



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