

CUMBERLAND MUNICIPAL UTILITY

January 2024



UNDERSTANDING THE WATER PORTION OF YOUR UTILITY BILL

WATER BASE CHARGE

- This is a fixed charge based on the size of your water meter. The charge pays for installation, repair, maintenance, reading of water meters, billing and customer service.

WATER USAGE CHARGE

- Measured in gallons, this charge pays for the usage and reflects the costs of the water supply and the delivery to your home or business.

PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION CHARGE

- The Private Fire Protection Charge represents the extra capacity of the water system needed to provide the high pressures and flows to fight fires through private fire suppression equipment, such as sprinkler systems. Only customers with sprinkler systems are subject to this charge.

PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION CHARGE

- The Public Fire Protection Charge is based on the size of your water meter. This charge covers the maintenance of hydrants and installing water mains to handle flow demands.

BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING COMMON WATER WASTING HABITS:

1. Leaving the faucet running while you brush your teeth or wash your hands.
2. Running the tap until it gets hot or cold.
3. Taking excessively long showers with high-flow showerheads.
 - Keeping showers less than five minutes can result in up to 1,000 gallons of water savings each month.
4. Ignoring dripping faucets or leaking pipes.
5. Running dishwashers or washing machines when they are not full.
6. Using too much water for landscaping.
7. Pre-rinsing dishes under running water.
8. Washing dishes by hand.
 - Running water while washing a load of dishes consumes 4-5 times more water than dishwashers.
9. Not maintaining your pool or hot tub, which can lead to leaks.
10. Running outdated washing machines, dishwashers and toilets.
11. Using top-loading washing machines, which consume as much as 200% more water than modern, front-loading washing machines.
12. Running water to thaw meats and frozen foods, as opposed to taking them out of freezers at an earlier time.

WHY IS MY WATER BILL SO HIGH?

YOU MAY HAVE A LEAK

Leaks are one of the main contributors to a high water bill. Leaks don't always appear as obvious drips or puddles. There are some indicators that you may be dealing with an issue.

TOILETS

To check and see if your toilet is running too much, flush your toilet and time how long it takes for the *whooshing* sound to stop. If it's more than 20 or 30 seconds, chances are the toilet is over-running. Another indicator may be a hissing sound coming from the toilet.

You can also perform a dye test. This is when you take some food coloring and put a few drops in the toilet's tank. Wait around 15 minutes and see if the color has made its way to the bowl. If it has, there is a leak allowing tank water to flow into the bowl. The good news? Toilet leaks are usually easy to fix. Go to your local hardware store and ask for a new flapper. Installing a new flapper won't take long, even for the inexperienced!

FAUCETS

"Can a dripping faucet increase my water bill? Surely those little drops don't amount to much?"

The reality may surprise you. While those drips may seem insignificant, they can cause a few gallons of wasted water per day. It's not as costly as a toilet leak, but a leaky faucet isn't something to ignore.

Fortunately, unlike toilets, leaky faucets are easy to spot. If you notice a dripping faucet, try to close the faucet tightly. If the dripping continues, chances are the washer needs to be replaced.

PIPES

Leaky pipes are major contributors to household water waste. The problem is that these leaks aren't as noticeable as ones coming from the fixtures inside your home. What are some of the warning signs?

- Mold growing on walls in the bathroom or kitchen
- Foundation cracks
- A musty smell
- Water marks on your ceiling, floors, or walls

Run a quick home test by shutting off all the water in your home. If you do that but your meter is still moving, you probably have a pipe leak.

HOUSEHOLD GUESTS

You may not think about it, but one small change in your household situation can have a big impact on your utility bill. For example, adding a new guest/family member to your household. This is especially common during the holidays when kids are on break and back home, or family or friends are staying over.

VISIT THE FOCUS ON ENERGY WEBSITE

Invest in water-saving solutions like efficient showerheads and faucet aerators.

<https://focusonenergymarketplace.com/water-savers.html>



In the next newsletter, we will breakdown and explain the ELECTRIC COMPONENT of your Cumberland Municipal Utility bill. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your usage or your bill, we would appreciate it if you would call our office directly.

CONTACT US

Cumberland Municipal Utility

1265 2nd Avenue

Cumberland, WI 54829

715-822-2595

www.cumberlandutilities.com

2024 CALENDARS

We still have free 2024 calendars!
Please stop by our office to pick one up today!

