

# ONE DRIP AT A TIME!

How much water am I losing from that dripping faucet?

- **One Drip** per second turns into:
  - 1 Minute loss = 1/12 ounce
  - 1 Hour loss = 6 ounces
  - 1 Day loss = 1 gallon & 1 pint
  - 1 Week loss = 8 gallons
  - 1 Month loss = 34 gallons
- **Two Drips** per second turns into:
  - 1 Minute loss = 1/3 ounce
  - 1 Hour loss = 20 ounces
  - 1 Day loss = 3 2/3 gallons
  - 1 Week loss = 26 gallons
  - 1 Month loss = 100 gallons
- **Drops Breaking into Stream** turns into:
  - 1 Minute loss = 2 ounces
  - 1 Hour loss = 1 gallon
  - 1 Day loss = 24 gallons
  - 1 Week loss = 175 gallons
  - 1 Month loss = 700 gallons

## It's Only a Small Drip...Right?

Slow drips of water can add up quickly. A toilet that “keeps running” after you flush or a sink that drips after it is turned off can waste thousands of gallons of water a year. A small leak in your automatic irrigation system can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month! If the drip is hot water, you are paying for wasted energy too. Fix leaks as soon as you find them. They won't go away on their own.

## A “Running” Toilet Leak

One of the most costly household wastes of water is a leaky toilet. According to the American Water Works Association, toilets account for 45% of all indoor water use in a typical residence. It is estimated that 20% of all toilets leak! **Toilet leaks can range from small to large, constant to random, or from being heard or silent.** They all cause wasted water. Depending on the water pressure to your house, a running

toilet can leak over **1 gallon of water per hour** which adds up to 26 gallons per day.

Fortunately, most toilet leaks are relatively easy to fix. In a properly functioning toilet, no water should move from the tank to the bowl, unless the toilet is being flushed. A leaking toilet loses water from the tank to the bowl without being flushed. A toilet can also waste water due to an improperly adjusted or broken fill (ballcock) valve causing water to enter the tank and flow into the overflow tube.

Most toilet leaks are caused by a faulty valve (also known as “flush valve ball” or “tank stopper”). A flapper valve should be replaced every 3 to 5 years. Most hardware, plumbing and home improvement stores supply flappers.

LEAK SOURCE	TYPICAL LEAKAGE	GALLONS/ DAY USED	GALLONS/MONTH USED	UNITS/MONTH USED
Running Toilet	1 gallon/hour	26	780	1
Leaking Faucet	1 drip/second	9	259	0.3
Leaking Showerhead	10 drips/minute	1.4	43	0.05
In-ground irrigation	1/32” in diameter (about the thickness of a dime)	210	6,300	8
A garden hose left running or a missing sprinkler head	1/2” in diameter	4,320	129,600	173