



Down the Drain

How much water do you use?

Each Peoria citizen uses an average of 145 gallons of water per day. You might be surprised at how much water you use in daily functions inside and outside of your home. By using this home water audit, you can determine the areas where you use water the most. We have also attached some tips on using water wisely.

1. Estimate the water use per person in your household, using figures from last billing.

Gallons used	÷	# of days in billing period	=	Average daily consumption	÷	Number of people in home	=	Average use per person

2. Estimate how much water is used inside your home by completing the chart below.

Use the low or high figure depending on the size of your appliance or the amount you think your household uses. For example a dishwasher uses an average of 15-20 gallons for a full cycle. If your dishwasher is small you might use 15 gallons. If you have a larger dishwasher, use 20 gallons. Taking a shower uses anywhere from 25-50 gallons of water. If you take shorter showers use 25 gallons. If you tend to take longer showers use 50 gallons.

Water use	Uses per week	x	Gallons per use	=	Total water in gallons used per week
Dishwasher			15-20 (full cycle)		
Washing Machine			30-60 (full cycle)		
Showers			25-50		
Baths			35		
Toilet Flush			5-7		
Brushing Teeth			10 (tap running)		
Washing Hands			2 (tap running)		
Total Estimated Water Use Per Week				=	

Estimate total gallons used per month for Water use.

Gallons used per week	÷	7 days	=	Gallons used per day	x	Days in the month(30-31)	=	Average gallons used per month

3. Estimate the total gallons used outside your home per month.

Watering minutes per day	x	Watering days per week	=	Water minutes per week	÷	60	=	Watering hours per week

Using a garden hose or irrigation system (depending on type) can use up to 250gallons per hour.

Estimate gallons used per week.

Watering hours per week	x	250	=	Gallons per week

(To estimate your average outside usage per month, multiply this answer by 4.)



Use Water Wisely

Now that you have a better idea of how much water daily activities use, you can identify the areas where you can conserve water. The following is a list of water saving tips that you can use.

Indoors

- Take shorter showers
- Run dishwasher and clothes washers only when full
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving
- Keep water in the refrigerator instead of letting water run in sink until cool
- Replace standard shower head with low-flow heads
- Investigate the replacement of standard plumbing fixtures with low water use fixtures
- Check pipes, faucets, and toilets for leaks
- Install recirculator pump so you do not run water down the drain waiting for hot water

Outdoors

- Frequently check your irrigation system for leaks
- Use low water use plants and the principles of xeriscape
- Adjust irrigation schedule to accommodate seasonal water demands
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street
- Water at night or during the cool morning hours to minimize evaporation
- Do not let the hose run while watering plants or washing your car
- Sweep your sidewalk and driveway rather than hosing it off

Leaks Can Be Costly

A toilet that runs continuously can use as much as 4,000 gallons of water per day. A faucet that drips slowly can use up to 5,000 gallons per month. A swimming pool can lose about 3,500 gallons per month just by evaporation. There are things inside and outside your home that could be leaking and can go unnoticed for several months.

You can check for unexpected overnight usage or leaks by taking a meter reading before going to bed and then again first thing in the morning before any water is used. Compare the two readings, if the reads are different then you should investigate the possibility of a leak.

Other simple ways to check for leaks:

- Look for damp areas in your home or yard
- Listen for the sound of running water when no water is being used.
- During the day, make sure all water is shut off and look at your meter to see if the dials are still moving.

Conserving water is good for the environment and it can mean lower water bills for you. Checking for leaks is very important in conserving water. Even the smallest leak that may take weeks or months to be noticed, especially during hot weather, can cause you to lose up to 120 gallons per day.