

# Stop Flushing Your Cash Down the Toilet!

Paw Paw residents, like most Americans, have water leaks. Also, like most Americans, Paw Paw residents underestimate the amount of water lost due to their leaky faucet, shower heads, or toilet.

Remember, Paw Paw is like most communities, we measure the water into your home and follow the principal 'water in = water out.' Therefore, what leaks ends up costing you twice - - once for the water coming into your home and once for the water that goes down the drain and into the sanitary sewer system.



**Many times residents only notice leaks after seeing a "spike" in their water and sewer bill. Here's a typical example from one customer:**

The customer is a two-person household in an average-size home in Paw Paw. In November they discovered the guest bathroom had a slow internal leak caused by an aging fill valve inside the toilet tank. The only reason they thought to look for a leak was the spike in our water bill that month. They found a slow leak inside the toilet tank in their seldom used hall bathroom. The noise was faint. If the fan was on or if you were not directly in the bathroom, you could not tell there was a noise coming from the toilet tank. The impact this one slow leak had on their water usage/bill during November was...

- Sept - \$41.97
- Oct - \$51.33
- Nov - \$148.30
- Dec - \$58.66
- Jan - \$43.64

This drives home how important it is to check/maintain water fixtures in our home to conserve water and save money. For about \$15, they were able to fix the leak that cost \$100!



## **Drips per Minute**

**For smaller/slower leaks...** simply count the number of drips in one minute from the leaky fixture. **Note: 5 drips per second amounts to a steady stream.** A faucet or shower head that drips 60 times in a minute will waste 8.64 gallons/day; 259.2 gallons/month; 3,153.78 gallons/year!



## **"Bucket & Stopwatch Method"**

For larger/more rapid leaks... hold an 8 ounce cup under the dripping fixture and time, in seconds, how long it takes to fill the cup. A faucet that drips rapidly or has a small steady leak can be measured by seeing how long it takes to fill an 8 ounce cup. For example, a rapid drip or steady leak that takes 45 seconds to fill an 8 ounce cup will waste 120 gallons per day; 3,600 gallons per month and 43,800 gallons per year!

Information Source: Water Audits and Leak Detection © 2009 American Water Works Association

*\* The Village of Paw Paw does not endorse any contractor, commercial service, or enterprise.*