

LOYALIST TOWNSHIP UTILITIES DEPARTMENT WATER LEAKS & CONSERVATION TIPS

Conversion Table

- 1 cubic meter (m³) = 1000 litres
- 1 cubic meter (m³) = 219.969157 imperial gallons
- 1 imperial gallon = 0.00454609 cubic meters (m³)
- 1 imperial gallon = 4.54609 litres
- 1 litre = 0.001 cubic meters (m³)
- 1 litre = 0.219969157 imperial gallons

Common Water Uses

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| • Clothes Washing – Top Loading | 170-190 litres a load (37-42 gal) |
| • Clothes Washing – Front Loading | 90-122 litres a load (20-27 gal) |
| • Dishwasher | 18-54 litres a load (4-12 gal) |
| • Bathing | 115-190 litres per bath (25-42 gal) |
| • Showering | 18-27 litres a minute (4-6 gal) |
| • Showering (low-flow head) | 8-11 litres a minute (2-2.5 gal) |
| • Car washing | 380 litres a car (84 gal) |
| • Yard watering | 10-35 litres a minute (2-8 gal) |
| • Flushing toilet (Standard) | 20+ litres a flush (4+ gal) |
| • Flushing toilet (water-saver model) | 13 litres a flush (3 gal) |
| • Flushing toilet (low consumption model) | 6 litres a flush (1.3 gal) |

Tips on detecting and identifying the cause of a leak

Monitor Meter: To check to see if your home has a water leak, you can read the meter before retiring for the evening and read it again in the morning before anyone uses any water, including flushing toilets. If the meter reading has changed, there is a leak in the house. Keep in mind that if you have water filters or water softeners, they do use water for automatic backwash during the night.

Pipes and Faucets: A dripping faucet can waste 800 litres (175 gal) of water per week, which equals (0.8 m³ x \$2.55) = \$2.04 per week or \$106.08 per year. A continuous stream 1/16" in diameter can waste 21,000 litres (4,620 gal) of water per week, which equals (21m³ x \$2.55) = \$53.55 per week or \$2784.60 per year.

Toilets: Toilet leaks are the most common and are hard to see or hear. Put food coloring or dye tablet (available at Odessa Municipal Office) in the toilet tank and wait 30 minutes. Do not flush the toilet during this time. If the coloring appears in the toilet bowl, there is a toilet leak. You usually cannot hear a leaky toilet valve until you are losing more than 970 litres (213 gal) a day. This equals (0.97m³ x \$2.55) = \$2.48 per day or \$905.20 per year.

Laundry: Some older-style laundry tub taps have a tube that connects to the floor drain (the water in the floor drain stops sewer odours from entering the house). When the tap is closed, the water should stop trickling. Worn washers can allow the water to continue to flow to the floor drain and be the source of a leak.

Bathroom Tips

- Turn off the water when brushing teeth or shaving or washing your face.
- Install water efficient faucet aerators.
- Replace old showerhead with a good quality high efficiency showerhead. Consider that during a 6 minute shower, you can save as much as 105 litres (23 gal) of water with a low-flow shower head. If you shower every day this could translate to a savings of about 40,000 litres (8,798 gal) of water a year ($40\text{m}^3 \times \$2.55$) = \$102.00. Remember, reducing water use for showering also reduces the energy needed to heat the water.
- Place a plastic bottle filled with water in the toilet tank to reduce the water required to fill the tank after flushing and the amount being used per flush.
- Stop using your toilet as a waste basket.
- Upgrade older toilets with water efficient models.

Kitchen and Laundry Tips

- Install water efficient faucet aerators.
- Run your dishwashers and washing machines only when they are full.
- Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run freely to rinse. Fill up the second side of your sink with rinse water.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in your refrigerator. Do not cool the tap water by running it every time you want a drink.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap and then reuse it to water houseplants.
- Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator.

Outside Tips

- Water your lawn when it appears stressed, i.e. starting to wilt or discolour. As a rule of thumb, a thorough watering of 2.5 cm once a week during extended dry periods, use a shallow container to confirm depth. Water during cool time of day, morning or evening, to minimize evaporation. Do not water on a windy day.
- Use a layer of mulch around your plant to reduce evaporation and promote growth.
- Collect rain water in a barrel to use on plants
- When mowing, raise the blade on your lawn mower to at least three inches high, or to its highest level. Closely cut grass makes the root work harder, requiring more water.
- Check sprinkler systems valves periodically for leaks and keep the sprinkler heads in good shape.
- Install covers on pools and spas when not in use to cut down on evaporation.
- When washing a car, use biodegradable soap and water from a bucket. Use a hose with a shutoff nozzle for the final rinse.

To find out more about water efficiency in your home and how to “leak proof” your home, please visit the main Township Office in Odessa and request your “Household Guide to Water Efficiency”, free of charge. You can also obtain valuable information from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) website, www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca.