

Is Your Water Bill High?

This brochure is intended to provide information on why you might be receiving a high water bill and suggestions on how to reduce your water usage.

Please request other brochures that might be of interest and use such as:

- Watering Your Lawn
- Rain Barrels & Cisterns
- Water Saving Tips
- Water Theft (theft of water ultimately raises your water rates)



Water is our most precious resource, learn more information on how to conserve and reduce your water consumption.

Town of Purcellville
130 East Main Street
Purcellville, VA 20132

Town of Purcellville
Department of Utilities

Is Your Water Bill High?

TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE
130 EAST MAIN STREET
PURCELLVILLE, VA 20132
(540) 338-7421

CODE	DATE READ	AFTER DUE DATE	CURRENT READ	PREVIOUS READ	USAGE	CHANGE

PAY BY DUE DATE AFTER DUE DATE ACCOUNT # RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
DUE DATE SERVICE ADDRESS
PREVIOUS CHARGE U.S. POSTAGE PAID BY PURCELLVILLE PERMIT NO. 3

PAY BY DUE DATE AFTER DUE DATE CURRENT CH. PREVIOUS SERVICE
ACCOUNT NUMBER

TO RECEIVE PROPER CREDIT RETURN THIS STUB WITH PAYMENT

Some tips to narrow down why your water bill might be high...

This resource brought to you by:
The Town of Purcellville
130 East Main Street
Purcellville, VA 20132
Tel: 540-338-7421



Evaluate Your Activities for the Past Two Months. Did you...



Beware of higher water bills in summertime... budget accordingly, and shorten watering times.

... Water your lawn or garden... even a little? Running the sprinkler for just 1 hour can use 400 gallons. That amounts to an additional \$4.00 for each hour of watering. That will add up fast if you did any amount of watering. Try to remember how many hours

you ran each individual sprinkler and multiply that by \$4.00. That's how much more your water and sewer bill will be. Also, you may be over watering. Request the *Watering Your Lawn* brochure from the Town. This can provide many tips to reducing the water you use to keep that lawn green. Or better yet, quit watering. Yes, the lawn won't be quite so green, but it will get green again as soon as it starts raining again. Having a slightly less green lawn identifies you as a resident that is conscientious of the Town's limited water resource.

... Have guests visiting? You might use a lot more water than you normally would use.

... Conduct spring/fall/anytime cleaning? If you ran a lot of laundry, washed the outside of your house, boat, camper, driveway, etc., that could use a lot of water.

Evaluate Your Possibilities for Leaks. Did you...

... Have a toilet that was running... even just sometimes? We have found that lots of homeowners who have a high water bill find out that the toilet was sticking open, not all the time, but just some of the time. And if it is leaking, you may not always be able to see or hear the leak. It won't show up on your floor as a puddle, it will just be going "down the toilet" so to speak. An

easy way to check for a leaking toilet is to drop some food coloring into the tank on the back of the toilet. If the coloring winds up in the bowl, then you know you have a leak in your toilet. The Town has dye tablets available free to any resident who suspects they may have a leaking toilet.



Is your toilet leaking? Or could something else be leaking besides the toilet?

... Did something else leak in your house? Even for a short period of time, a leak can add up. A steady drip in a faucet can use 24 gallons in one day. Twenty-four gallons of water is approximately 26¢, which could amount to a \$15.00 increase in your water and sewer bill over the two month billing cycle.

... Keep a record of the plumber's activity including date of repair, location of repair and type of leak, if you did have a leak repaired. If you had a very large leak, you may be eligible for a leak adjustment on your bill. You will need the plumber's information to be eligible.

... Call the Town Office at 338-7093 if you suspected you have a leak? Town Maintenance staff can look at your meter when you are not using any water in the house and can often detect a leak. There is a small dial on the meter that will turn if there is a small amount of water use in the house. It is important that



Keep good records of all activities related to a water leak in your house.

you are not using water when they check the meter to ensure that the water going through the meter is indeed caused by a leak. Please don't try to do this yourself as the Town Ordinance does not permit resident access to the meter. Call the number above and we will be glad to come and check for you.

Evaluate Your Water Uses. Have you...

... Installed water saving shower heads?

... Implemented water saving measures with all members of your household?

... Purchased water efficient appliances?

... Waited until you had a full load of laundry or dishes before washing?

Find more great water saving tips from the Town's *Water Saving Tips* brochure or websites such as: www.wateruseitwisely.com or www.waterwiser.org or many other websites that you can find on the internet.

Take responsibility for your water use. If your water bill is higher than you like, then try changing your water use habits. Think "water use it wisely" and you may just bring that water and sewer bill down. Join many residents in the Town who don't worry about their lawn not being quite so green in August, it will get green again when it starts raining in the fall.



www.waterwiser.org
Where you will find
"100 Water - Saving Tips" and
other information on reducing
your water use.

*Town of Purcellville
Department of Utilities*

130 East Main Street
Purcellville, VA 20132

Phone: 540-338-5024
Fax: 540-338-6205