

# Public Works | Water | Wastewater Q&A

**1**

## How Can I Detect Leaks Fast?

Check toilets first: put a few drops of food coloring in the tank; if color shows up in the bowl without flushing, it's leaking.

Watch your meter: turn everything off and see if the meter still moves.

Winter hint: unexplained water use in winter often = toilet flapper or humidifier/softener issues.

**2**

## How Can I Conserve Water?

Fix running toilets  
(biggest payoff)

Full loads of laundry/dishes

Short showers / low-flow fixtures

**3**

## How Can I Prevent Frozen Pipes?

Keep garage/utility room doors closed in cold snaps

Let warm air reach plumbing  
(open cabinet doors under sinks on exterior walls)

Disconnect hoses outside; shut off and drain exterior hydrants

If you're gone: keep heat set  
(don't turn it way down)

**4**

## How Do I Understand My Utility Bill?

Base charge + usage (gallons)  
+ any applicable fees

If your bill spikes: it's usually a leak, a stuck-running toilet, seasonal use, or a meter/reading issue—call the Water Division and we'll help troubleshoot.