

Prairie du Chien Water Dept.  
724 East Blackhawk Ave.  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821  
Office phone number 608-326-8213  
Office fax number 608-326-9623

## **TESTING FOR WATER LEAKS**

If you find your water meter readings higher than normal and you are unaware of the reason for this increase; we encourage you to test for a water leak.

Please take a moment to perform a simple test that can identify one of the most common causes of water leaks within a home, a running toilet. Remove the lid from the tank at the back of your toilet and add several drops of regular household food coloring to the water in the tank. **DO NOT FLUSH THE TOILET**. Wait a few minutes. If colored water appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leaking toilet. Usually this means the seals in your toilet need to be replaced. Also, one needs to check the level of water in the tank when the float assembly turns off the flow of water. The water level should be approximately an inch below the top of the overflow tube. If the water level is too high, wasted water will flow down the overflow tube and will allow the toilet to run continuously. If this is the case, one needs to have the float assembly adjusted or a new assembly needs to be installed.

You should contact a licensed plumber to replace these seals and/or float assembly as soon as possible. Waiting even one week can cause thousands of gallons of water to run through your meter. If the toilet test shows that your toilets are not leaking, you may want to have a plumber inspect other areas of your home that may be the cause of water leaks. Even small drips from faucets or yard hoses can be potential causes of large amounts of water being used. Water softeners that are improperly programmed are also a common cause of high water usages.

Upon request, Prairie du Chien Water Department can also help by investigating the accuracy of your water meter, check for water leaks and verifying the attached meter reader located outside your home. This service is FREE but must be requested by the home owner.

If you have further questions about your water usage or readings; please feel free to contact the Prairie du Chien Water Department office during regular business hours at the phone number shown above. If you would like to schedule an appointment for a water leak check up, a question on a water bill or to switch over, finalize or start up a water account; please contact the City Hall during regular business hours at 608-326-6406.