

Town of Townsend, MA

Townsend Water Department

Hydrant Flushing:

Hydrant flushing or main flushing is performed twice per year in the Spring and Fall usually during the months of April and May and October and November. We use a process called “Uni-Directional Flushing”. Starting at the storage tanks sections of main are isolated by shutting off designated valves and the opening of designated hydrant/s. This creates a higher velocity of flow creating a “scouring” effect to the inside of the pipe until clean water is achieved. This process is repeated working out towards the extremities of the system.

Water Conservation:

Using water wisely reduces usage, protects water sources, lowers energy costs, and saves you money. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sets a standard of and requires public water suppliers to promote residential usage to a maximum of 65 gallons per capita per day (GPCPD) or 65 gallons per person per day. Once exceeded the DEP will require the water department to implement and enforce strict conservation measures.

During the summer months of May, June, July, and August the total amount of water pumped from all our sources doubles and in some instances more than doubles. This additional usage is mainly attributed to lawn irrigation. There are many ways to conserve water and intern save you money, for a more detailed list contact our office at 978-597-2212. However the two main causes of high water bills and excessive usage is:

1. **Leaking Toilets:** Leaking toilets can use from 100-500 gallons of water per day. The problem is, they are known as a silent leak. Typically the problem is just an adjustment of the water level in the tank. The water level may be too high and constantly running down the overflow tube located in the center of the tank. Adjusting the ballcock or float so the water only fills to within about 1 inch from the top of the overflow tube will often solve the problem. To determine if your toilet is leaking. Purchase some inexpensive dye tablets from the local hardware store. Drop one in the tank (not the bowl) come back in about 15-20 minutes, if you see dye in the bowl your toilet is leaking and you probably need to replace the flapper.
2. **Automatic Lawn Irrigation Systems:** Automatic sprinkler systems on average account for 50% of home water use. If you're looking for a way to save water it makes sense to focus on the big uses, and it doesn't get any bigger than the sprinkler system. The typical home irrigation system is only about 40-50% efficient; meaning half of the water applied to the landscape is wasted, not benefiting the lawn or the plants. The keys to efficient automatic irrigation are:
 - 1) Scheduling your irrigation controller to apply the right amount of water in the right way
 - 2) Make sure the rain or moisture sensor is activated on your controller and works properly
 - 3) Proper maintenance of your irrigation system.

For example, we had an instance one summer when we were asked by a customer (1 person in the home) to investigate a possible reason for such a high bill. Upon our investigation we found, the controller was not properly programmed, the rain/moisture sensor was not activated, and being a new home owner, the owner was not familiar with programming the controller. The water meter was checked for proper operation and was found to be working properly. The unfortunate result was that the irrigation system had used in excess of 24,000 gallons of water in 4 days.

Your Water Meter May Be Trying To Tell You Something: Your water meter is not just the thing that say's how much water you've used so we can send you a bill. It's also a good source of information. You can monitor how much water you're using per day, week, or month. Also it's a great leak detector. First locate your meter, in most cases it will be located in the cellar somewhere along the front wall about 1-3 feet up from the floor. Whenever your certain that no one in the home is using water, preferably late at night before bedtime, look at the top of the register. You will see a smaller dial with either a single hand or a triangle shaped dial. This a low flow indicator. If you are certain no one is running water and you see this dial moving even slightly you have a leak somewhere in the home. If you need assistance locating your meter and the low flow indicator, please call the office, we'll be glad to assist you.