



Utility Billing  
300 W. Baraga Ave.  
Marquette, MI 49855  
906/228-0420 Fax: 906/228-0409

## **IS MY WATER USE NORMAL?**

How do you know if your water bill is high or low? How can you tell if replacing showerheads, faucets, toilets, and clothes washers with newer, more efficient models is having any effect on your usage? This model has been adjusted to reflect current trends in average water use per individual.

### Single family home (using bags for solid waste collection):

One adult	\$ 67.32 to \$ 89.42
Two adults	\$ 89.42 to \$133.62
Three adults	\$111.52 to \$177.82
Four adults	\$133.62 to \$222.02
Five adults	\$155.72 to \$266.22
Six adults	\$177.82 to \$310.42

*add \$22.10 to \$44.20 per additional adult for consumption allowance  
(count children 12 and under as half an adult for bill estimation purposes)*

If your bill runs higher than the figures listed above, look at the beginning and ending reading dates for the billing period and consider anything out of the ordinary during that time period that may have increased your usage – lawn watering, houseguests staying with you, or anything you discovered leaking or running. If none of these apply, it is quite possible that you may have an undetected leak. Running or leaking toilets are by far the most common cause of high bills. Here are two simple items you can check to see if you have a problem with a toilet:

#### *Toilet tank valve/overflow tube:*

To check for this type of leak, remove the toilet tank lid and see if water is flowing into the overflow tube. The overflow tube is an open pipe that rises from the bottom of the tank and should extend a little above the surface of the water. If water is flowing into this tube, the valve needs repair or adjustment.

#### *Toilet tank flapper:*

Flapper leaks generally cause the toilet tank to refill periodically, not run continuously, and in many cases are inaudible. If you notice your toilet tank refilling without being used, it might be caused by a leaking flapper. Place several drops of food coloring in the tank and wait 10-15 minutes. If you see any of the color appearing in the toilet bowl without having flushed, the flapper is not sealing properly and should be adjusted or replaced.

If these tests are negative, call Utility Billing at 228-0420 for further assistance. If necessary, a service appointment can be scheduled to check into other potential causes of high usage.