



# Save Water & Money By Fixing Leaks!

<b>Toilet Leaks:</b>	<b>Gallons/month</b>	<b>Water Cost/Month</b>	<b>Wastewater Cost/Month</b>	<b>Combined Cost/Year</b>
Tank/bowl seal leaks	2,000	\$4.94	\$14.70	\$19.64
Sticks sometimes	10,000	\$33.10	\$73.50	\$106.60
Runs until jiggled	20,000	\$89.16	\$88.20	\$177.36
Runs constantly	40,000	\$209.96	\$88.20	\$298.16
<b>Ice Machines:</b>				
Valve sticks when running	28,000	\$137.48	\$88.20	\$225.68
Valve sticks open	86,000	\$487.80	\$88.20	\$576.00
(if water cooled add:)	23,000	\$107.28	\$88.20	\$195.48
<b>Irrigation:</b>				
Sprinkler head broken	4,000	\$9.88	\$29.40	\$39.28
Sprinkler head missing	8,000	\$25.36	\$58.80	\$84.16
Sprinklers run daily	17,000	\$71.04	\$88.20	\$159.24
Hoses/Spigots	100,000	\$572.36	\$88.20	\$660.56
<b>Faucet Leaks:</b>				
Drips: Slow leak	300	\$0.74	\$2.21	\$2.95
Drips: Fast leak	600	\$1.48	\$4.41	\$5.89
Small stream	2,000	\$4.94	\$14.70	\$19.64
Large stream	4,000	\$9.88	\$29.40	\$39.28
<b>Swimming Pools:</b>				
Splash outs from overfilling	4,000	\$9.88	\$29.40	\$39.28

\*Calculations include water and wastewater charges only, are based on 2024 Fiscal Year residential rates, do not include base charge or taxes, and are calculated using the residential tiered rates with no additional consumption

## Water Facts

The original source of water supplied to GRU customers is the Floridan Aquifer. Filtered through porous limestone rock deposits, it is one of the purest water supplies in the nation.

## Leak Detection

Your water meter can be a valuable partner when it comes to leak detection at your home. Once the obvious, visible leaks are repaired, hidden leaks can be uncovered by watching your water meter dial when all water has been turned off. GRU meters can be read to tenths of a gallon. Simply watch the triangle or the large sweeping hand on the meter's face. A movement of one tenth of a gallon every five minutes means you are losing 868 gallons a month!

Check your property for extra green grass or soggy ground around the building. Listen for the sound of running water and look for stained carpet, flooring, or walls. If the problem is a hot water leak, you may be able to feel the warmth from the hot water.

## Faucets

Faucets are notorious for leaks at homes and tend to be especially bad in restaurants, restrooms and convenience stores. Regular inspections of lavatory facilities for possible leaks should be conducted on a routine basis. The sooner you detect a leak, the sooner it can be fixed.

Examine every faucet and hose connection inside and outside your home. If you see a drip and cannot stop it by gently tightening the handle or connection, the washer may be worn or damaged and need

replacing. If the faucet leaks around the handle or base when turned on, an O-ring or other seal may be worn and need replacing.

### **Toilets**

The number of times a toilet is flushed greatly increases the wear and tear on flush mechanisms reducing the life span of a typical float and ballcock device. This increases the likelihood of leaks as the equipment inside the toilet tank begins to fail. Leaky toilets should always be fixed immediately. If you have to jiggle the handle to stop a toilet from running, the flapper, connecting chain, or handle assembly needs adjusting or replacing.

Periodically check the water level in the toilet tank. The water level should be ½ to 1 inch below the top of the overflow tube. If it is at the top of the overflow tube, flush to see how high the water comes when it stops. If the water is back to the top of the overflow tube or overflows a little before stopping, the float control needs adjusting. If the water level stops below the top of the overflow tube or if the above adjustment does not work, the float control needs replacing.

### **Urinals**

Most urinals flush using a Sloan valve, either manually operated or equipped with an automatic sensor. Sloan valves should be inspected routinely for leaks around the base or near the valve handle. If the urinal continues to run for an extended period after it is flushed, the Sloan valve could be approaching failure.

### **Irrigation**

When using a zoned irrigation system, timers should be installed to water before or after sunset to avoid excess evaporation. Watering between 10:00AM and 4:00PM should be avoided. The watering schedule should be adapted to seasonal watering demands. You may want to consider moisture sensors to avoid watering during rain and/or a soil tensiometer to monitor water penetration while minimizing runoff. It is best to water deeply occasionally instead of lightly every day. Maintain sprinkler heads, replace broken or worn heads, and perform periodic cleaning. Ask your landscape contractor for a plan or schematic of the underground irrigation system as it is laid out. This will allow you to reference the drawing(s) in the future if any repairs, leaks, or modifications should occur.

GRU can install an irrigation meter to measure the amount of water that is used for irrigation purposes. The benefit of an irrigation meter is the customer is charged only for the water that is consumed. No charge for wastewater services is applied because the water is not being disposed of through the GRU wastewater system. The irrigation water instead saturates the earthen ground for landscaping purposes. This could result in large savings for your home. The costs for the installation of an irrigation water meter vary according to the size required.

\*Note: If you manually water your landscaping with a hose, it is important to be sure that you turn it completely off at the spigot after you are done using it. A hose left on for even a few hours can waste a significant amount of water and can often go unnoticed since the water drains straight into the ground typically.

### **Water Heater**

GRU recommends the lowest setting permissible by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for domestic hot water. If dishwashers have pre-heaters or boosters, you may be able to reduce tank settings from 140-150°F, to 120°F. Hot water to bathrooms may be disconnected or turned off at the lavatories, since most customers do not require available hot water for hand washing. The payback for minimum water heat settings is two-fold, reducing the energy demand of the tank and, reducing excessive heat lost to the conditioned space that must be removed by air-conditioning.

If your water heater has a yellow “Energy Guide” label, it is a newer water heater and is well insulated. If you have an older electric water heater, consider adding an insulation jacket to your unit to assist in heat retention. Exposed hot water pipes should be insulated with inexpensive foam pipe insulation available from hardware and building supply stores. If water pipes are rusty or corroded, these pipes should be replaced prior to insulating. Do not turn water heater off and on unless you will be gone for at least two days.