

Help us reduce Salter Square's water consumption and save money. Last year we spent \$145,000 on our water bills.

Together we can do better!

What could be making Salter's water bill high?

There could be leaks in your unit. The most likely place for a leak is the toilet.

- A toilet that continues to run after flushing, if the leak is large enough, can waste up to 200,000 litres of water in a single year!

To check for leaks in your toilet, add a few drops of food colouring or a cold cup of black coffee to the water in the tank. Wait a few minutes. If, without flushing the toilet, the colour appears in the bowl, your toilet has a leak that should be repaired immediately.

Older toilets use about 20L of water per flush. The Ontario Building Code requires 6L low-flow toilets for new construction and 13L toilets for renovations.

Salter would like to help each unit switch to low-flush toilets! Please fill out the survey attached and stay tuned for details.

Other places for leaks - faucets and showerheads.

To check for leaks, make sure the sink or tub is dry, insert the plug into the drain, wait, check the sink or tub from time to time. You have a leak if water starts to pool in the sink or tub.

Don't forget to check all bathrooms, the kitchen and outside taps.

Water conservation tips

Being Water Wise benefits the environment and allows Ottawa to defer expanding City water facilities - saving residents added expense through tax increases and inflating water bills.

Practice the three Rs and reduce your impact on natural resources, treatment and delivery systems, and save money.

- Reduce - be aware of your water use and consider ways to use less.
- Repair - locate and repair leaks to save water, money, and to prevent potentially costly property damage.
- Retrofit - install water-saving devices on existing fixtures and select water-efficient devices when replacing older, water-guzzling fixtures and appliances.

City of Ottawa Suggestions

REDUCE

- **Turn off the tap** when brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your hands. Fill the sink with a few centimetres of warm water to wash or rinse your razor while shaving. For brushing, fill a glass with water to rinse your mouth.
- Take **shorter showers** and use only a portion of the water you currently use or fill the tub 1/4 full if you prefer a bath.
- For a cold glass of water, keep a **jug in the fridge** instead of running the tap.
- **Dishwashers** - always wash full loads for greatest water and energy savings or adjust the settings to the number of dishes to be washed.
- To wash dishes by hand only **fill the sink ¼ to ½ full**. Rinse using a second, ¼ to ½ full sink and avoid running the water.
- **Steamed not boiled** - Steaming food uses less water, less energy and helps to retain nutrients. When boiling, use only enough water to cover the food and use a tight-fitting lid.
- **To the top** - always wash full loads for greatest water and energy savings or adjust the water level to the amount of laundry to be washed.

REPAIR

- **Check for leaks** - regularly check taps and pipes. Prompt repairs can save water, money, and prevent potentially costly property damage. Stop drips and save dollars.
- **Outside taps** - regularly check connections and hoses for leaks. Prompt replacement of an inexpensive washer could save water, money and possibly prevent costly property damage. A leak of only one drop per second wastes about 10,000 litres of water annually.

RETROFIT

- **Showerheads** - older showerheads can use about 20L of water every minute. Replace your older showerhead with a new low-flow showerhead and save water and money. Look for a showerhead that uses 9.5L per minute or less.
- Taps - **faucet aerators** can reduce water use by 25 per cent. Replace your older aerator with a new low-flow aerator and save water and money.
- **Toilet retrofits for an existing water-guzzling toilet** to reduce the amount of water used, such as a water displacement (plastic bag or bottle), water retention (toilet dams) or alternative flushing (early closure or dual flush). Check with your local plumbing supply or hardware store to find which method will work best for your toilet. Don't put rocks or bricks in your toilet tank as these can breakdown over time and cause damage. Or replace your water-guzzling toilet with a low-flow 6L version, a 3L/6L dual flush, or high efficiency 4L flush toilet - that's ½ the volume of water per flush (and 1/5 the cost!).
- **Washing Machines** - Top-load washing machines have agitator arms that generally reduce the size of load that can be washed. Front-load and other low water washers do not have agitator arms, and are gentler on clothes. Wash larger loads and remove more water during the spin cycle to reduce drying time. **When buying new appliances**, find the Energuide sticker and check the rating to determine energy and water efficiency.
- **Garden hoses** - use a trigger nozzle on a hose to stop the flow of water when not in use.