

# RENTER'S GUIDE to Handling Leaks

**BE PREPARED** – Prepare for future issues by finding out today how your apartment complex handles maintenance requests. It may be a phone number or a form on your leasing office website.

**WORK ORDERS ARE YOUR FRIEND** – When you spring a leak, contact your maintenance team right away. If the issue isn't resolved, follow up with a polite email or phone call.

**PREVENTION** – Check your lease to see if you are required to heat your apartment during freeze warnings to prevent pipes from bursting.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS? CONNECT WITH US AND ASK AWAY:



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@AccWaterWarrior



accpublicutilities

Visit [ThinkAtTheSink.com](http://ThinkAtTheSink.com) or call 706-613-3729 for more water conservation resources.

Do you receive a water bill at your rental? If so, take control of your water use. Get WaterSmart – a free, online tool you can use to:



Track your water use



Evaluate your bill



Receive leak alerts



Pay bill by credit card



WaterSmart

For more info, visit [accgov.com/WaterSmart](http://accgov.com/WaterSmart)

## A Renters Guide to Water Use

# HOME WATER ASSESSMENT

Use this do-it-yourself water assessment to find out:



if your household is **WATER SMART**



if your fixtures & appliances are **WATER EFFICIENT**



how you can use **LESS WATER**



WATER WORKS  
today, tomorrow, for life

# How water efficient is your home?

An adequate water supply is vital to our economy, health, environment, and fire protection. Join the thousands of Athenians who have embraced wise water use as a daily habit to protect our water resources. Conduct a home water assessment to discover how much water you use in your home, then choose to be a Water Warrior.

## 1 WHAT IS YOUR WATER USE?

To learn how much water you use in a typical day, look at your most recent water bill and follow these three steps. Want to save a step? Visit your free WaterSmart account to see your gallons used per day for the last month and enter the number into Step 2.

Do you need a WaterSmart account? Get started at: [accgov.com/WaterSmart](http://accgov.com/WaterSmart)

### 1. FIND YOUR MONTHLY WATER USE.

Locate "Usage (x 1000 gallons)" and multiply the number by 1,000 and enter into (A).



Total Usage x 1,000 =

**A** monthly water use

### 2. CALCULATE YOUR GALLONS PER DAY.

Convert your monthly use to daily use by dividing (A) by the "Days in Billing Cycle" number and enter into (B).



A ÷ Billing Days =

**B** daily water use

### 3. CALCULATE YOUR GALLONS PER PERSON.

Divide your daily use (B) by the number of people in your home and enter into (C).



B ÷ Family Members =

**C** per person daily use

## Compare your usage to other Athenians!

WINTER SUMMER GALLONS PER PERSON PER DAY

< 50 50–80 **Water Warrior** Way to go! Share your water-efficient ways with friends and neighbors.



50–70 81–99 **Water Wise** You use the average amount of water for Athens.



>70 >100 **A Biggest User** See our tips for conserving more water!



## 2 CHECK. TWIST. REPLACE

**CHECK YOUR PIPES.** Water marks on floors, walls, or ceilings can indicate indoor pipe leaks. Common locations for leaky pipes are under the sink in your kitchen or bathroom. Check hose connections in the laundry room. Remember to inspect outdoor pipes. Tighten and replace as needed.



**CHECK YOUR TOILETS.** Leaky toilets waste hundreds of gallons of water a day. Check for toilet leaks by putting drops of food coloring or dye tablets in the tank. Wait 15 minutes without flushing the toilet. If color enters the bowl, you have a leak. Adjusting the floating arm or replacing a flapper often fixes this leak.



**CHECK YOUR FAUCETS.** Check faucets for drips. Sometimes the fix is as simple as tightening the handle. Other faucet repairs include replacing an inexpensive washer or valve seal. Drips add up quickly, so replace as soon as possible.



**CHECK YOUR BILL OR YOUR WATERSMART ACCOUNT.** If your water usage or bill spikes suddenly, there is a good chance you have a leak. Locate your outdoor water meter. If you see a flashing or continuous faucet icon on the meter display, you have a suspected leak.



*Tip: You can sign up for leak alerts on your WaterSmart account.*

Visit [ThinkAtTheSink.com](http://ThinkAtTheSink.com) for help locating and repairing leaks and a video explaining how to use your meter to find leaks.

## 3 BE A WATER WARRIOR!

**RUN ONLY FULL LOADS.** Make sure the load is full when you run a clothes washer or dishwasher. Washing half-loads is inefficient and wastes water.

**TURN IT OFF.** Water-efficient people turn off the water while brushing their teeth, shaving, cooking, or washing dishes. Simply put some water in the sink and rinse as needed.

**DESIGN A BLUE LAWN.** Shrink your lawn by adding rocks and mulch to create a unique and eye-catching landscape. Install drought-resistant and native plants to add a burst of color and reduce the need for watering. When you must water, check your sprinkler's aim and "spray away from the gray" – your sidewalk doesn't grow when watered, only your water bill!

**USE YOUR WATER SENSE.** EPA WaterSense labeled products use less water, while providing the same power and performance as standard models. Installing WaterSense helps conserve water, energy, and money.



Look for the WaterSense label when replacing your appliances and fixtures.