

June 2019

waternews



Your source for all things water

Water Bill Mystery? Become a Water Detective and Solve It.

Right this moment hundreds of gallons of water could be leaking in or around your home. You may not hear water running or see any puddles, but that doesn't mean it's not happening.

The clear evidence: an unusually high water bill.

In some cases, the answer is simple: You've started watering more. Even hand watering can increase your bill, especially if you lose track of time while you're doing it. But sometimes the reason your bill has skyrocketed is a complete mystery.

That's why SAWS has created a how-to video series to help you become your home's own water detective. You can watch them any time at saws.org/highbill.

The two most common culprits of a high water bill are leaky toilets and misbehaving irrigation systems. But SAWS Conservation Director

Karen Guz says any device in your home that automates anything related to water is at risk of leaking — often without leaving any easy-to-find clues.



“Swimming pools, water softeners — anything with pumps and valves that move water could malfunction. These culprits could be silent, invisible problems,” she said. “A device that tops off the water in your pool automatically is the number one reason for catastrophic water bills.”

According to a national study, 13 percent of the water used in homes — 12 percent in San Antonio — is lost to preventable leaks — leaks people didn't know they had, added Guz.

The good news is you can learn how to “flush out” the usual water-wasting suspects in and around your home by

watching our quick, simple how-to videos.

Ready to get your gumshoes on and be a water detective? Visit saws.org/highbill.

Your 2019 Water Quality Report

From source water to the consumer's tap, SAWS is committed to preserving and protecting the drinking water quality of our community. Public water systems like SAWS are required by law to report every year on the type and quantity of substances in their water.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality conducts water quality tests and

provides the results for the report.

To learn more about San Antonio's outstanding public water supply, view your 2019 Water Quality Report online at saws.org/waterqualityreport.

Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar 210-233-3546.

Join the MySAWS Conversation:



Event Calendar

Fourth of July Celebration

July 4

Woodlawn Lake Park
1103 Cincinnati Ave.
saparksfoundation.org

Balcones Heights Jazz Festival

July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2

Wonderland of the Americas
4522 Fredericksburg Road
bhtx.gov

Outdoor Film Series: Pretty in Pink

July 18

Mission Marquee Plaza
3100 Roosevelt Ave.
missionmarquee.com

Texas Bird Walking

July 20

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Bird Tour

July 28

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

How To Reap Rewards from Rain Barrels

If you're a SAWS WaterSaver Rewards member, you know that rain barrels are one of the items you can get with the coupons you earn.

Before you get your rain barrel, keep these steps in mind so you'll reap the most benefits from it — and see the savings on your water bill.

1. Place the barrel under the downspout of a gutter to catch the rain from the roof of your house. Rain barrels only fill up when



they get enough water.

2. Know how much area you plan to water. You may need multiple rain barrels depending on the size of your yard.
3. Make sure your landscape is rain barrel friendly. Rain barrels work best for supplemental watering of existing drought-tolerant plants.

Not a WaterSaver Rewards member yet? Sign up online at GardenStyleSA.com/rewards.

Keep Wipes Out of the Pipes

Did you know up to three-fourths of San Antonio's sewer spills are caused by grease and debris in the sewer mains?

A big part of the problem is so-called "flushables" like baby wipes and other personal cleansing and disinfecting products. Why? Because even though these may not clog your toilet, they won't break

down in your home's plumbing or the sewer system beyond. Instead, they clump together with grease in the pipe and cause a messy, smelly sewer overflow.

How can you help? The toilet is NOT a trash can. NEVER flush ANYTHING other than the three Ps: pee, poo and (toilet) paper.

Remember: **#WipesClogPipes!**

It's a SAWS Summer!

Summer is unofficially here and staycations can be just as fun as vacations, especially here in San Antonio — where SAWS will be out and about to celebrate you, summer fun and some of the amazing things the Alamo City has to offer.

Follow **@MySAWS** on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to find out where our outreach team will pop up and how you can be a part of **#SAWSsummer** celebrations! There will be games... giveaways... and who knows — maybe you'll even learn something about water along the way!

