



# Do you know how often you turn me on?

**If only the water faucet could talk to us.** It might remind us how often we turn to it for safe water to drink, to wash our clothes, to prepare our food, to provide us with the everyday quality of life we enjoy. It might remind us that the water pipes below our streets make so many everyday conveniences possible.

Our water bills pay to keep our community tap water safe, reliable and there for us - 24/7 without fail. For more information about what your tap water delivers, visit [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com).



Only Tap Water  
**Delivers™**



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 American Water Works Association

## City of Venice About Your Utility Bill



Venice, Florida  
"City on the Gulf"



### CASHIER'S OFFICE

401 W. VENICE AVE.

VENICE, FL 34285

(941) 486-2626

[www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com)

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# CITY of VENICE UTILITY BILLING RATES

## Monthly Charges

	<u>2008- 09</u>
Water Readiness Charge	\$12.31
Sewer Readiness Charge	14.68
Water Power Surcharge	1.75
Sewer Power Surcharge	1.75
Backflow Prevention Fee	2.03
Garbage Collection	9.56
Recycling Collection	7.28
Billing Fee	2.65

## Consumption Charges:

	<u>Oct. 2008 - Sept. 30, 2009</u>
<b>Sewer</b>	\$4.83 per 1,000 gallons
<b>Water:</b> up to 2,000 gallons	\$3.96 per 1,000 gallons
<b>Water:</b> 2,001 - 4,000 gallons	\$4.0 per 1,000 gallons
<b>Water:</b> 4,001 - 8,000 gallons	\$4.29 per 1,000 gallons
<b>Water:</b> 8,001 - 10,000 gallons	\$4.67 per 1,000 gallons
<b>Water:</b> more than 10,000 gallons	\$4.92 per 1,000 gallons

*Reclaimed or reuse water is derived by cleaning sewage and treating it for safe use as irrigation water for golf courses and lawns. At this time, a few developments in the east part of the city have this service available.*

## Reclaim/Reuse for Irrigation:

5/8-inch Meter:	\$ .80 per 1,000 gallons used, up to 12,000 gallons
	\$1.05 per 1,000 gallons for every 1,000 gallons used more than 12,000 gallons
1-inch Meter:	\$ .80 per 1,000 gallons used, up to 30,000 gallons
	\$1.05 for every 1,000 gallons used more than 30,000 gallons

**Stormwater Management:** Rates vary depending on the size and utilization of the property, and amount covered with a hard surface.

# Water Restrictions

Customers using potable water or well water to irrigate may water **once a week, before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m., on the following days:**

**Thursdays**, addresses ending in **odd numbers** or letters A through M.

**Tuesdays**, addresses ending in **even numbers** or letters N through Z.

Shrubs and flower beds may be hand watered and vehicles may be washed at any time. Hoses must have shut-off nozzles.

New lawns and landscaping may be watered on any day of

the week during a 30-day establishment period, beginning the day new plants are installed. Irrigation must be done before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

Customers using reclaimed water for irrigation have no restrictions on its use.

In Florida, watering in the heat of the day - usually between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. - will cause most of the irrigation water to evaporate. Watering lawns too often causes root rot.

For more information, call the Water Reclamation office at 486-2788.

*Note: The city irrigates public property, such as parks, on alternate days in order to allow residents maximum watering resources on their assigned days.*



## Test for leaks

The major cause of high water consumption resulting in a high water bill is due to a plumbing leak.

Leaks can be detected by reading the water meter. The majority of city of Venice water meters have leak indicators, such as a small triangle which turns when water is being used. If this dial turns or the numbers advance when no water is being used, a leak probably exists in the plumbing system.

To determine if a leak exists, read all the numbers on the water meter and make a note or drawing of the meter face, noting where all the dials are located.

Do not use any water on the premises for at least two hours.

Then read the meter to see if the dials or numbers have moved.

Here are some indicators that the toilet may be leaking:

- The handle has to be jiggled to stop the toilet from running.

- The handle must be held down in order for the tank to empty.

- Sounds come from the toilet when it is not in use.

- Water is running over the top of the overflow pipe, indicating a leaking refill valve.

- Water is trickling down the sides of the toilet bowl long after it has been flushed.

- Water drips out of the refill tube into the overflow pipe.

- Known as the phantom flusher, water runs for about 15 seconds without anyone touching the handle.

These are all items that can be fixed for a more efficient functioning fixture.

Here are some ways you can test your system to see if there are leaks:



- Sprinkle talcum powder on top of the water in the tank. It will be easy to see if water is running over the top of the overflow pipe.

- Sprinkle talcum powder on top of the water in the bowl to see if water is leaking into the bowl.

- Place several drops of food coloring in the tank of the toilet. Wait for 30 minutes. Check the toilet bowl. If the coloring appears in the bowl, the flapper valve needs to be replaced.

If no color appears, there is probably no leak.

Dye tablets for this use are available at the cashier's office in Venice City Hall.

## More about your utility bill:

Residents in North Venice have sewage service provided by Sarasota County. For information, call 941-861-6790. All other services in North Venice are provided by city government.

Bulk collections of garbage and yard waste are available upon request. Call 486-2422 for an appointment.

Some bulk collections cost \$20 per cubic yard.

Dumpster service is provided in a variety of sizes and costs.

For more information on these fees, call the Public Works Department at 486-2422.

## Possible reasons for high water consumption:

- A leak under a concrete floor slab
- A backflow device malfunction
- Irrigation system timer problem
- Solar panel leaks
- Hot water tank leak
- Automatic pool filling malfunction
- Visitors staying in your home
- Vandalism
- Water softener backwash malfunction
- Unauthorized use of outside faucets
- Washing machine cycle malfunction
- Leak in plumbing between the meter and the house
- Children and teenagers in the household
- Toilet flapper valve stuck open
- New construction on adjacent property

# Water Saving Guide

<b>Water Saving Tips:</b>	<b>Amount Saved:</b>
Thaw frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave, not under running water.	5 gallons or more per meal.
Use a brush and a bowl full of water instead of running water over fruits and vegetables.	2 - 10 gallons per meal.
Keep a pitcher of cold water in the refrigerator instead of running it at the tap until it cools.	About 2 gallons per drink.
Install low-flow faucet in kitchen and bathrooms.	2.5 gallons per minute.
Run a laundry load on short cycle (7-8 gallons) rather than standard cycle (10 - 12 gallons).	3 - 4 gallons per load.
Wait until you have a full laundry load to run the washing machine.	10 - 12 gallons per each cycle not run.
Hand wash items in a filled basin, not under running water.	25 gallons per wash.
Install a low-flow aerator faucet to replace older models.	2.5 gallons per minute per person.
Replace toilets with new ultra-low flush toilets that use 1.6 gallons of water per flush rather than 6 gallons.	Almost 4 gallons per flush.
Bathe in a tub less than half filled with water.	10 - 15 gallons per bath.
Install a low-flow shower head to reduce water usage by 50 percent or more.	About 3 gallons per minute per shower.

# Water Saving Tips: Amount Saved:

Wash vehicles with bucket, sponge and hose with a shut-off valve.	85 gallons or more gallons per wash.
Use a car wash that recycles water.	500 gallons per wash.
Cover swimming pool to slow down the evaporation of water from it.	If average sized, the equivalent of its volume each year.
Use a broom or rake rather than a hose to remove leaves and debris from driveway, walk, patio and pool decks.	25 gallons per 5 minutes of work.
Use a nozzle which can be shut off or adjusted to a fine spray.	5 gallons per minute.
Water landscaping in the evening or early morning to prevent rapid evaporation during the heat of the day.	More than 50 gallons a week in the summer.
Deep soak garden once weekly.	35 gallons per one-half acre per watering which is not needed.
Choose a front-loading washing machine. They use one-third less water and two-thirds less soap than top-loading machines.	About 10 - 20 gallons per load.
Purchase washing machines with water saving features such as load size selector and variable water level control.	As much as 30 gallons per load.

