

Small Leak, Big Problem

Unnoticed water leaks can be among the most catastrophic causes of household property damage. And water damage is on the rise. About one in 50 homes experiences water damage or frozen pipes each year, according to insurance data aggregation ISO. Water damage accounts for almost half of all property damage losses in 2015, up from about a quarter in 2011, ISO says. Here's the kind of damage those leaks cause:

A pipe with a leak 1/32 inch wide - about the thickness of a dime - will produce...

264 gallons/day



That's enough to fill an 8 ft. square room with 6" of water

Ten percent of U.S. houses have leaks that waste...

33,000 gallons or more of water/year



That's enough to fill almost 5 jet refueling trucks

If you're gone for two weeks on vacation and your ice maker leaks at the rate of 1 drip per second, it will produce...

115 gallons of water



That's enough to fill almost 1.5 bathtubs

If your toilet in your vacation home leaks for the 8 months of the year that the house is unoccupied at a rate of 10 drips per minute, it will produce...

333 gallons/day



That's enough to run your dish washer 40 times

Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Bloomberg calculations