

How To Read Your Meter

A small leak, about the size of the head of a pin, dripping at one drop per second can add up to 1 Cubic Foot of water per day. A large leak, the kind most often found in toilets, can waste close to 27 Cubic Feet of water or more per day! Check the following when you suspect a leak:

Toilets

Check toilets for leaks often. The most common causes of a leaking toilet are 1) float device set too high, which causes water to run into the overflow tube and 2) a warped or cracked flapper. Toilet leak detection kits should be available at a local hardware store. The kit contains tablets that are dropped into the toilet tank. After the tablets are placed in the tank wait 15 minutes, then check the toilet bowl. (Remember, don't flush during this time.) If the water in the bowl changes color, you have a leak!

Faucets

Check faucets in the bathroom and kitchen periodically. Worn washers are most often the cause of dripping faucets. Sprinkler systems could have broken sprinkler heads or damaged underground pipes which are common sources of sprinkler system leaks. Watch your system run at least once per month to spot problems early. Leaks are usually easy to fix. Do-it-yourself books with easy to follow instructions are available at libraries and stores.

Don't forget to use your water meter to detect leaks.

Where To Look On The Meter

Locate the white numbers on the right side of the meter dial (black background). Each turn of a number in the black register indicates that one Cubic Foot (CF) of water has passed through the meter.

Locate the black numbers on the left side of the meter dial (white background). Each turn of a number in the white register indicates that 100 CF or 1 Hundred Cubic Foot (HCF) has passed through the meter. The meter dial is read like an automobile odometer, straight from left to right

Determining Your Water Usage

Use the following example to help read your meter. Select a day to take an initial water meter reading. Write down the number you see on the meter odometer (ignore points of reading) that indicate the total amount of water that has passed through your water meter at that particular moment. Example: 007640 After a period of time has passed (a day or a week), read your meter again at approximately the same time of day. Example: 008330

Now subtract the first reading from the second reading. This is your water usage for that period.
Example: $008330 - 007640 = 300$
The 300 figure indicates that 300 CF of water has been used during the time period between the two readings. This is equal to 3 billable units of water. The average residential customer uses about 13 units of water per month. (Did you know? 1 cubic foot = 7.48 US gallons)

Do You Have A Leak?

Use your water meter to determine if you have leak. Make sure no water is being used inside or outside (no clothes washer filling, no shower running, no watering outdoors, etc.). Locate your water meter, carefully lift the lid on top of the meter. Find the leak detector (the small triangle on the meter dial). If all your water sources are off and the leak detector is rotating, you may have a leak. Leaks can waste hundreds of cubic feet of water in just a few days. It pays to fix leaks promptly.

Knowing Your Water Use Rate Is A First Step To Conservation

Look at your meter to see how easy it is to read.

