

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 7 gallons of water per day. A large leak, the kind most often found in toilets, can waste 200 gallons of water or more per day! Check out 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 kit are available. 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!

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 hundred U.S. Gallons (USG) 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 1000 USG of water 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 numbers 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[0]

After a period of time has passed (a day or a week, for example), read your meter again at approximately the same time of day. Example: 008330[0]

Subtract the first reading from the second reading. This is your water usage for the period. Example: 008330[0] - 007640[0]=6900

The 6900 figure indicates that 6900 USG of water has been used during the time period between the two readings. This is equal to 6.9 units of water. The average residential customer uses about 10 units of water per month.

Do You Have A Leak?

Use your water meter to determine if you have a 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 box, carefully remove the cover and lift the 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 thousands of gallons of water in just a few days. It pays to fix leaks promptly.

Faucets

Check faucets in the bathroom and kitchen periodically. Worn washers are most often the cause of dripping faucets.

Sprinkler Systems

Broken sprinkler heads or damaged underground pipes 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.

Knowing Your Water Use Rate Is A First Step To Conservation

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

