

How to Check for Leaks



It is important to understand how to read your water meter. Follow these easy steps to see if there are water leaks.

Step 1: Read the Meter (please see other side for instructions and safety measures)

- ◆ The meter has a small triangle on the meter face, designed to detect even small leaks.
- ◆ Turn off all water inside and outside your home or business.
- ◆ If the triangle is not moving, you have no leaks.
- ◆ **If the triangle is moving, you may have a leak. Go on to step 2.**

Step 2: Shut off the Water at Your Master Shutoff Valve

- ◆ There is usually a shutoff valve on the supply line leading from the water meter. Turn the valve off.
- ◆ **If the triangle is still moving you have a leak in the supply line.** Call a plumber to fix the leak.
- ◆ **If the triangle stops moving with the master water shutoff valve off, the leak is inside the building or in the irrigation system.**

Step 3: Check for leaks

- ◆ Common sources of leaks are a toilet that is running, a constant drip in a sink or outdoor faucet, a loose or dripping washer connection, a home water treatment unit, an evaporative cooler unit, or a sprinkler system.
- ◆ Start with the toilets because they will usually be the culprit. Use dye tablets to test the toilets (available at City Hall-Public Works Counter).
- ◆ **If you see the blue color, you have a leak.** Now you just have to fix it. **If there is no blue color, there is no leak.**
- ◆ If it is older than 1992, it uses 3.5-7 gallons per minute (GPM), replace it with a High Efficiency Toilet. Rebates of \$150.00 are available.
- ◆ If it is not older than 1993, fix the leak by looking in the Practical Plumbers Handbook (available at City Hall-Public Works Counter).

If the toilet is not leaking, check for dripping faucets inside and outside. Look around the water heater, dishwasher and washing machine for water or water damage. Look for leaks in the irrigation system. Turn on the sprinklers or drip lines one at a time and check for leaks. Look for standing water or areas of the landscape that are brighter than others. Good luck!

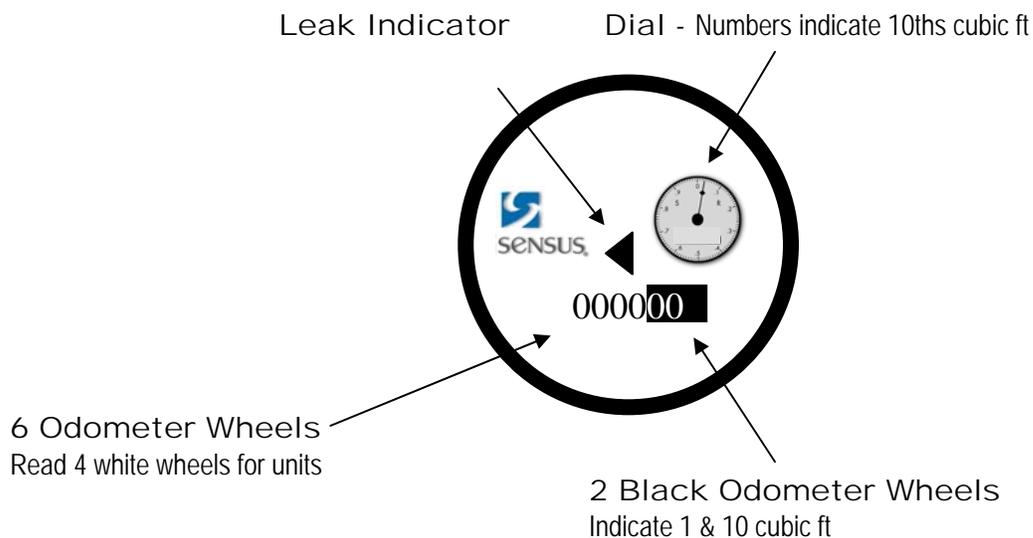
How to Read Your Water Meter

NOTE: Use care when lifting cover. The cover is heavy and is attached to an electronic device. Lift cover just above the level of the sidewalk and slide carefully to the side to read meter.

To check your bill, read only the four (4) white odometer wheels. They indicate units of water used in figuring your bill. A unit is 100 cubic feet which equals 748 gallons.

To look at your daily consumption, you can also read the two black odometer wheels on the right side of the register. They indicate tens (equals 74.8 gallons) and ones cubic feet (equals 7.48 gallons of water).

To check for small leaks, check the triangle leak indicator at the center of the register. This will turn clockwise at very low rates of flow.



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