

Helpful Water Meter Tips

The Water Department receives many complaints about high water bills and requests to test water meters for accuracy. Water meters do not operate on electricity and meters cannot register usage unless there is water flow, if anything the meter may run a little slow, which means it does not detect all the water that passes through the meter. This is actually in the users' favor- less water metered-less water billed. Here are a few tips customers can use to see if there is a leak within the home.

1. The water meter has a little red dial or a black arrow shaped dial on the face. This dial is a leak detector, if that dial is moving, water is being used.
2. Check toilets- this is a common cause for water use. A little leak will add up to a lot of water in a small amount of time.
3. Check your water softener- softeners use water every time it regenerates, if the softener valve sticks, it will use water until repaired.

If you do not find a leak, try keeping track of your water usage. Document the numbers on the water meter face every day for a week or so. The last two numbers are 10ths, which are not used for billing purposes, the numbers to the left are the actual units used. One unit equals 750 gallons. For example: if the reading on your meter is 225.00 it means that two hundred twenty units have gone through your meter. You might be surprised at the amount of water a household uses in a week.

This chart will give you an idea of how much water can be wasted by a small leak in your home or business.

With water pressure at 60 psi over a three month period:

1. ¼'' hole will allow 1,181,500 gallons of water to flow through your meter.
2. 1/8'' hole will allow 296,000 gallons of water
3. 1/16'' hole will allow 74,00 gallons of water