

Because water matters every day

Conduct your own water audit!

Start at least 4 hours after you have watered. Do this every 6 months.

1. Walk around your yard. Look for damp or “squishy” spots on the ground. These spots may indicate a leak. Look for a source on the surface before checking the line below. Look for broken sprinkler heads and drip emitters.
2. Turn your irrigation system on. Do this station by station so that you can observe and evaluate each area.
 - a. Do all sprinkler heads pop up and close back down?
 - b. After the system was turned off, did all drip emitters stop?
1. Think there is a leak? Turn off all indoor and outdoor water (don't forget the pool!).
 - a. Locate the meter box near the front of the driveway. Open it carefully and check to see if the meter is spinning. If it is, water is running.
 - b. Close the backflow gate valves and recheck meter. If the meter stops spinning, you may have a leak outside.
 - c. If it is still spinning, close the gate valve to the house and recheck meter. If it stops spinning, you may have a leak inside.
 - d. If it is still spinning, recheck all water using appliances to make sure they are off. If they are, call Liberty Water.

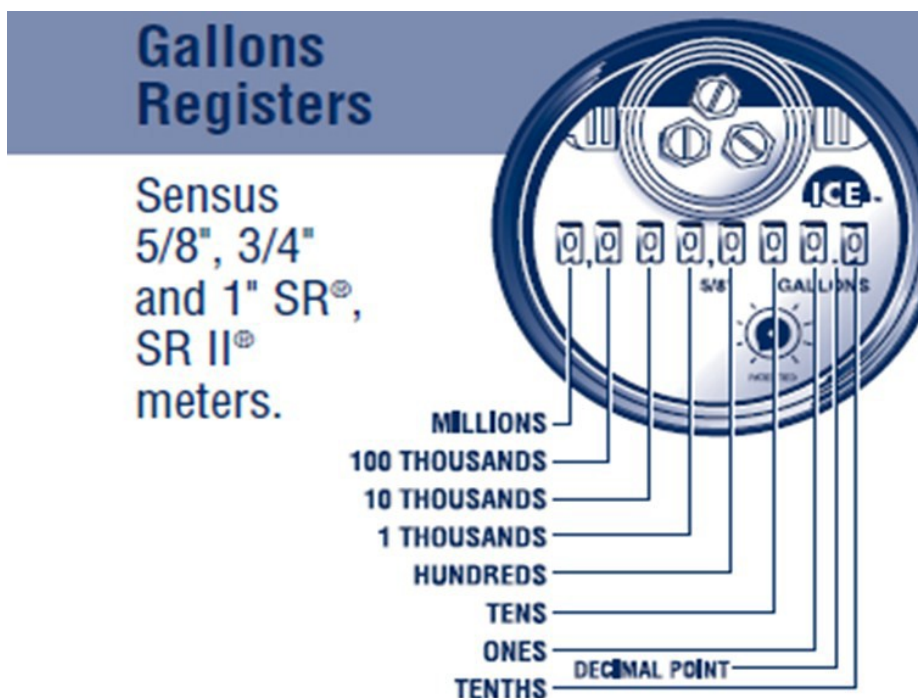
Old Bridge Municipal Utilities Authority

Monitoring Your Meter

Monitoring your meter can be an effective way of budgeting your water or finding a leak. Below are step by step instructions and a worksheet on the following page.

The meter can be found in the front of your property by the side walk or street inside a cement or steel box.

1. Call Liberty Utilities to unlock your meter box, if needed. When you are done, call to have it locked back up.
2. Record the time and date.
3. Read the meter from left to right. This is your total gallons used. Mark it on your spreadsheet beside "Current Read." (On the first day, record your total gallons next to "baseline read" and stop there. On the second day continue to steps 4 and 5).
4. Fill in your previous read next to "Previous Read". Your previous read is the total, or "current read," from the last time you monitored your meter. Use your "baseline read" for the second day.
5. Subtract your Current Read and Previous Read to determine the total water use. Write this in the Consumption Total area.



Example:

Date	Time		
9/20/2014	11:45AM	2,630,000	Current Read
		2,620,500	Previous Read
		9,500	Consumption Total

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Leak Facts that Hold Water


- On average, you can fill a backyard pool with the amount of water wasted in the home every year due to leaks! That's about 10,000 gallons of water.
- A leak the size of a pinhead can waste 360,000 gallons of water a year; the equivalent of 22,500 cups of coffee!
- Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners more than 10% on their water bills.
- To find out if your toilet leaks, add a drop of food coloring to the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing, you have a leak. Remember to flush immediately after this experiment to avoid staining the tank.


Water wasted from a leak over 3 months at 60 psi water pressure				
Diameter of Stream		Gallons	Cubic Feet	Cubic Meters
	1/4"	1,181,500	158,000	4,475
	3/16"	666,00	89,031	2,527
	1/8"	296,000	39,400	1,115
	1/16"	74,00	9,850	280
↑	In three months a continuous leak from a hole this size would waste this amount of water above			


*These numbers come from the Water Use It Wisely campaign in affiliation with Water Conservation Rulers.


Ways to Save


 Change landscaping irrigation timers with the seasons.


 Skip your next watering cycle after a rain event. Your plants will thank you.


 Don't drown you plants! Shut off automatic watering systems when it rains.


 Reduce evaporation by mulching your landscaping and potted plants.


 Use faucet aerators that are 1.5 GPM or lower.


 Check hoses, connectors and spigots regularly. Replace them when necessary.


 Check for leaks around the house once a month.


 Only do full loads of dishes when running the dishwasher.


 Reuse clean household water by watering potted plants with it.


 Wash produce in a pan instead of under running water.

 Take shorter showers.

 Fill the sink when washing dishes instead of letting the water run.

 Turn the water off when you're not actively using it.

 Only fill the bath tub up a third of the way.

 Do full loads of laundry or set the water level to the correct size of the load.



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Checking and Fixing Leaks

Did you know that a running toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day?! Leaks are sneaky and can waste a whole lot of water over a short period of time, adding up to a lot of wasted money.

Below are some fixes to common leaks around the house. If these simple fixes do not work, or you are not comfortable fixing them yourself, call a trusted handyman or licensed plumber to get the job done.



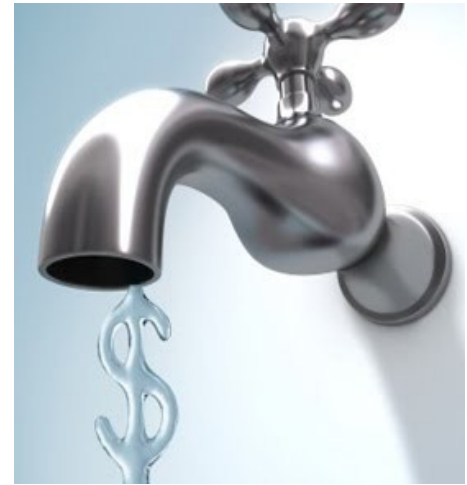
Faucets:

The Test: Turn the faucet on then all the way off. If it's still dripping or running, there could be a leak.

Possible Solution: Worn out faucet washers and gaskets frequently cause leaks. This is another hardware store trip. Ask them how to safely change washers.

Remember to turn off the water first.

Price: \$



Showerheads:

The Test: Turn the faucet on then all the way off. If it's still dripping or running, there could be a leak. Mineral build up on the outside of the faucet could also indicate a leak.

Possible Solution: Make sure there's a tight connection between the pipe stem and shower-head by using pipe tape to secure it. For more complicated valve leaks that drip when the water is turned off, contact a handyman or plumber.

Price: \$ - \$\$



Toilets:

The Test: Place a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. Wait 15 minutes, if there's color in the toilet bowl, you have a leak. Remember to flush immediately after the test to avoid dying your toilet.

Possible Solution: Common reason for a leak is an old or worn out toilet flapper, or "valve seal." Head to your local hardware store with your old flapper to fix this leak.

Price: \$



Toilet going through the food coloring test. This one has a leak!