



# Water Meter Awareness



## Water Saving Quick Tips

- ◆ Brushing your teeth can use up to 7.5 litres of water if the tap is left on while brushing, versus 0.5 litres if you turn off the faucet while brushing
- ◆ A quick shower uses approximately 30 litres of water, while a bath can take up to 190 litres or more
- ◆ Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket.
- ◆ Use the washing machine and dishwasher only when full and ensure you are using the proper load setting
- ◆ Keep a jug of cold water in the fridge instead of running water until it's cold

### Town of Minto

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## Leaking Toilets

High volume water leaks often come from toilets.

- ◆ A toilet that continues to run after flushing could be wasting 20 to 40 litres per hour—that's 175 to 350 cubic meters
- ◆ That's enough water to fill a Swimming Pool

## Do-It-Yourself Toilet Assessment

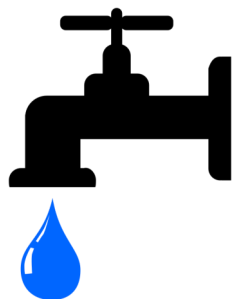
1st—check for the most common leak; a deteriorated or defected flush valve (flapper) ball at the bottom of the toilet tank. If it doesn't make a tight seal water will leak into the toilet bowl. To check for this:

- ◆ Take off the tank lid, flush the toilet then wait for it to fully refill
- ◆ Put a few drops of food colouring in the tank
- ◆ Wait 20 to 30 minutes—If there is any colour in the toilet bowl there is a leak

## Urinals

A toilet tank that feeds urinals was filling at 1.7 litres per minute and when full, it flushed and started all over

- ◆ This worked out to 7.3 cubic meters per month. Resulting in a bi-monthly bill of \$702.32 for urinals alone
- ◆ We dropped the fill rate to 0.6 litres per minute, which still worked out to 25.9 cubic metres per month until they installed a valve on each urinal



## Potential Causes of High Bills

- ◆ **A Leaking Toilet**  
A continuously running toilet can waste up to 757 litres a day
- ◆ **A Dripping Faucet**  
A faucet drip can waste 75 litres a day or more
- ◆ **Filling or Topping Up a Swimming Pool**
- ◆ **Watering the Lawn, New Grass or Trees**
- ◆ **Kids Home for Summer Vacation or Guests**
- ◆ **Water Softener Problems**
- ◆ **Outside Tap or Garden Hose**

## Get to Know Your Water Meter



The Town of Minto will read your meter for billing purposes, but should you wish to monitor your own consumption, here's how:

- Shine a flashlight over the flashlight icon (located on the register) to turn the LCD display on
- Take a reading at a set time of the day
- Take a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at the same time the next day
- The difference between the two readings is your daily water consumption

<p><b>Leak Indicator</b> (displays a possible leak)</p> <p><b>OFF</b> Indicates that there are no leaks</p> <p><b>Flashing</b> Indicates water usage for more than 50% of the time during a 24 hour period</p> <p><b>Continuous ON</b> Indicates water usage at least once every 15 minutes during a 24 hour period. There is most likely a leak at your property/business</p>	<p><b>LCD Display</b></p> <p>The 9 digit LCD displays your meter reading in cubic metres.</p> <p><b>1 cubic metre = 1,000 litres</b> <b>1 cubic metre = 220 imperial gallons</b></p> <p>The last four digits of the reading are decimal points. In the example above, the meter reading is 26.3987 cubic metres.</p>	<p><b>Flow Indicator</b> (displays direction of water flow)</p> <p><b>ON</b> Water in use</p> <p><b>OFF</b> Water not in use</p> <p><b>Flashing</b> Water is running slowly</p> <p><b>(-)</b> Indicates reverse flow</p> <p><b>(+)</b> Indicates forward flow</p>
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When you believe all of your water is shut-off check the flow indicator to see if it's running.

You can also turn on a tap then look at your meter, just to observe what happens when there is flow.

### If a continuous leak is found and repaired,

1. Use no water for at least 15 minutes.
2. Check the leak indicator.
3. If the leak has been correctly repaired, the leak icon changes from **On Continuously** to **Flashing**.

### If an intermittent leak is found and repaired,

1. Check the leak indicator after at least 24 hours.
2. If the leak is OFF, then a leak is no longer indicated.

## Water Softeners

Customers with water softeners have higher bills due to the regeneration or backwash cycles these systems go through.

- ◆ These systems are programmed to do this on a regular basis
- ◆ Water is used to clean the filter media which is then discharged into the ground next to the system
- ◆ There are times when these systems “get stuck” in a cycle causing high water consumption

## Outdoor & Underground Leaks

Leaks can also occur in harder to find places, such as under your house or in a service line between your meter and your house as well as to another building, such as a shed

- ◆ Check outdoor spigots & crawl spaces and look for wet spots in your yard which may indicate a leak

## Irrigation Systems

During the summer irrigation systems are a common source of high water use.

- ◆ Automated irrigation systems should be checked regularly to be sure they are functioning properly and have no leaks or broken sprinkler heads and that the timer is programmed correctly.
- ◆ If a sprinkler valve sticks on, it could waste an extremely large quantity of water