

IS THERE A LEAK IN YOUR HOME?

There is always the possibility of a leak in the service lines and holding devices delivering the water for immediate availability in your home. The information below was prepared to assist you in determining if you have a leak and where it might be. The meter pit and all service lines from the house side of the meter pit to the home are owned by the homeowner and are their responsibility to maintain. We are able to assist you in determining if you do have a water loss but the repair would be yours to provide if it is in this area. Please call us at 571-2442 if you have any questions.

READING YOUR WATER METER

1. Open your meter pit using pliers to unlock the lid and read the meter. The dial has a row of numbers which turn when water is being measured through the meter for delivery to your home. Make a written note of these numbers.
2. Also on the face of the meter is a red hand that reads similar to a clock from 1 to 10. These numbers measure by the gallon; the divisions between each number represent tenths of a gallon. Make a note of the location of the dial at this time.
3. After waiting one hour without using any water in your home, return to the meter pit and read your meter again. If the red hand has moved, water is being measured as it passes to your home. To determine the amount of water lost, subtract the first reading from the second reading; the result is the amount of water lost in one hour. For billing purposes your meter is read in thousands of gallons (the white digits in the diagram).

CATCHING A WATER LEAK

The most common leak sources are the toilet, the home water softener, irrigation systems, and the humidifier on a furnace. You will probably need a trained repair person to repair a water softener, irrigation system, or humidifier but you can be your own detective to catch a leaking toilet. Normally you will not hear a toilet leaking until the leak is quite severe but the cost can be substantial. A leak in a pipe the size of this dot could mean a loss of 360 gallons of water per day.

Most toilet leaks occur at the overflow pipe or at the plunger ball inside the tank. To determine if your overflow pipe is leaking, flush the toilet with the tank lid off. The water level should refill up to about one half inch below the overflow pipe. Adjust the

float level control screw, if necessary, so the valve shuts off the water at that level. If the valve itself is leaking, it will probably need to be replaced.

Another test would be to drop a little food coloring or dark beverage into the holding tank. Do not flush but wait about half an hour to see if the colored water appears in the toilet bowl. If it does you probably have a seeping leak around the flapper valve or plunger ball and need to replace these worn parts. If the coloring disappears from the holding tank without flushing but does not appear in the toilet bowl then you may have a crack or break in the overflow pipe allowing the water to seep into the pipe.

There are, of course, other areas which could be a source of water loss but these are the most common. Please feel free to call on us to assist you where we are able.