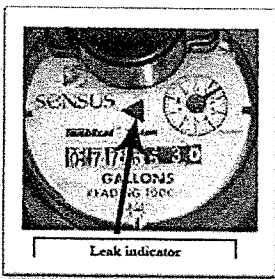


How to Check for Leaks

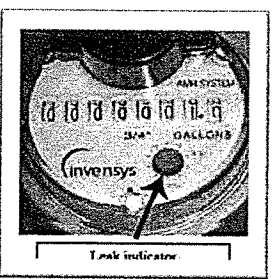
In order to check for leaks in your home, take a reading from your water meter, and then shut off all utilities, including faucets, showers, appliances and any other items that call for water, and then wait an hour. Check the meter again. If the reading has changed, then something in your home or building is calling for water and you could have a leak.

Dripping faucets are a common cause of wasted water. More difficult to find are toilet leaks, which may be noticed as a trickling sound or could be silently leaking. You could put some food coloring or dye tablets (available at the Water Billing Office) into the water tank at the back of the toilet. Wait 30 minutes and if any of the coloring leaks into the toilet bowl, this may indicate a leak due to a deficient flapper or flush valve which will need replacement. Other common leaks could be from pipes located behind walls or in your irrigation system. Stains on walls or ceilings, or soft or squishy areas in your lawn could mean something is leaking and should be checked. You can contact a professional to rectify these matters.

Most water meters have a leak indicator or flow meter indicator which when moving, will show that water is flowing through the meter, even very minute amounts. Here are some examples of analog meters:



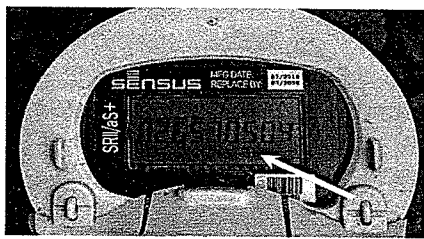
Leak indicator



Leak indicator

If the triangle is spinning or the dial is spinning, then water is moving through the meter.

This is an example of a flow indicator on a digital meter – if the **plus sign “+”** is pulsing, then water is flowing through the meter.



Additional Information

The average person uses 1,000 cubic feet of water per quarter, or 4,000 cubic feet per year. In gallons this translates to roughly 7,500 gallons per quarter or 30,000 gallons per year.

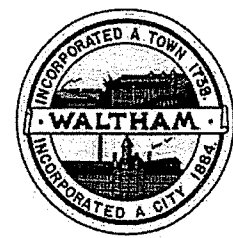
The Calculation of your Water & Sewer Bill is based on your water usage.

The City of Waltham allows a second meter for irrigation (non-sewer use). Usage of these meters will be charged for the *water* used outside and not sewer, which can save money for property owners who have irrigation systems.

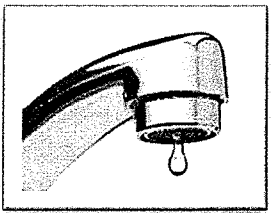
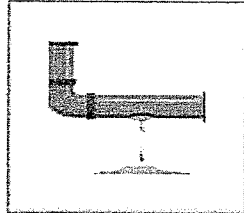
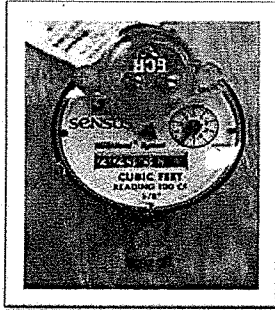
For more information, you can visit the City of Waltham website at <https://www.city.waltham.ma.us/water-sewer-division> or contact the Water Billing Office at (781) 314-3810.

For any other questions, you may also contact
The City of Waltham
Water-Sewer Division
 165 Lexington Street
 Waltham MA 02452
 (781) 314 3855 M-F 7AM – 3PM
 (781) 894-3700 AFTER 3PM M-F & ON HOLIDAYS AND WEEKENDS

Date 9/14/2021



How to Read Your Water Meter and Check for Leaks



City of Waltham
 Water-Sewer Division
 (781) 314 3855

Learning to read your water meter can help you **discover water leaks, monitor your usage** and **double check your water bill**. Did you know that the average home can leak 50 to 100 gallons of water a day? Slow drips of water can add up quickly. Even small leaks can add up to thousands of gallons of water wasted monthly. By not finding leaks, you not only waste water, but you may be subjecting your home and personal belongings to severe water damage. Identifying leaks is a great way to reduce the amount of water for which you are billed.

How to read your Water Meter

There are several reasons why you might want to locate and read your water meter. First, you might be interested to know how much water you use in a day. By reading your meter at the beginning and then again at the end of a day, you can compare the two readings to tell how much water you and your family used. The second reason is to check for leaks. To do this, turn off all the taps in your house, and then look at your meter. If the meter is still turning, chances are you have a leak somewhere.

All customers within the City of Waltham hooked up to city water service have their water use measured by a meter. The majority of the City's water meters are the straight reading type of meter, which resemble an odometer in your car. Water meters in Waltham measure in cubic feet (1 cubic foot of water is approximately equal to 7.5 gallons of water). Your water bill is based on how many units of water are used during the billing period. In Waltham, one unit equals 100 cubic feet or approximately 750 gallons. The meter dials advance as water passes through.

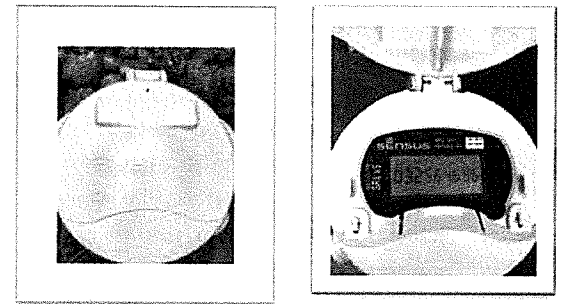
Here are some tips to help you locate and read your water meter:

Locate and Read Your Water Meter

Your water meter is typically located in your basement along the wall closest to the street where the water line enters the house or building. Most meters have a brass-colored body with a clear plastic top, and the numbers are read from left to right. In the analog type of meter shown below, the reading is taken from the figures which appear above the words "CUBIC FEET". The reading shows that since installation, 2235.87 cubic feet of water has been recorded. Since the Water Division bills in units of 100 cubic feet, we would read this meter simply as 2235.



Some meters are newer models that have digital (LCD) display readouts with solid plastic lids. In this case, the lid must be opened to access the face. The reading will only be visible for a short time. It will shut off after a moment to preserve battery strength. If this happens, shut the lid securely, wait a moment and open it, and the reading should be visible once again. The numbers are read the in the same way, from left to right.



The reading for the digital meter shown below is 32564.696. We would read in units of 100 cubic feet, meaning we would read this meter as 32,564.

