

Detecting leaks and reading your water meter

Take a peek to stop a leak

Checking for leaks regularly and fixing them as soon as possible will help you save water and money. Many household leaks are not easily detected. Doing a water audit of your household can tell you how much water you use, and if you should investigate any unexplained increases in use.

Did you know?



A slow dripping tap can waste more than a bucket of water a week, or over 10 buckets of water a week for a fast dripping tap.



A continuous running toilet can waste nearly 70,000 litres of water per year. That's enough to fill a backyard pool!

Locating your water meter

A water meter measures the amount of water that each property uses. It's generally found at the front of a property. Most are at or below ground level and have a metal or plastic lid. If you live in a unit or apartment block, there might not be an individual water meter for each residence. If this is the case, you can contact the building manager/owner about installing individual meters.



Learn how to read your meter on the back of this flyer

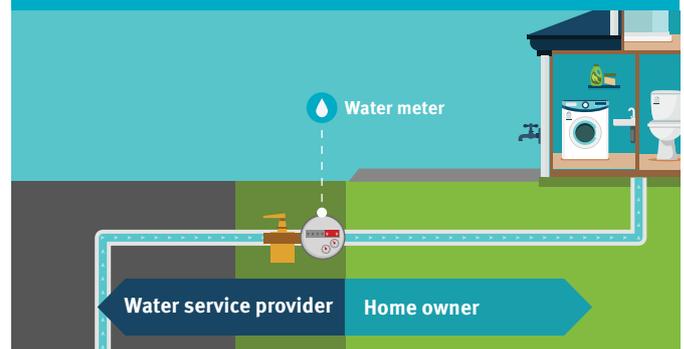
Measuring your household water use

- ◆ Check your water meter monthly or quarterly to monitor and understand how much water you use. This will help locate leaks early, saving you both water and money.
- ◆ Check your water rate notice for water usage information. The notice will state your household's daily water consumption and an average figure for households in your area.
- ◆ Do a water audit using the waterwise water audit fact sheet available online by searching 'waterwise home' at www.qld.gov.au.

Using your water meter to detect leaks

1. Turn off all taps tightly and make sure no-one will be using any water on your property for the next hour.
2. Find your water meter and write down the numbers shown.
3. After one hour, check the water meter reading. If the numbers have changed, there may be a leak.
4. If it appears there is a leak, the first item to check is the toilets. Turn off the water valve located behind each toilet and then repeat steps 1 to 3.
5. If the numbers haven't changed during this time, you may have a leaking toilet. To check, ensure the water valve is open and put a little food colouring in the toilet cistern. If, without flushing, the colouring begins to appear in the bowl, the cistern rubbers need to be repaired.
Note: After the test, flush your toilet twice to prevent the food colouring from staining the toilet bowl.
6. Alternatively, if the numbers have increased, there is a leak somewhere else on your property. Check for leaks from taps, showers, your hot water system, and look around outside for unusually wet areas. For further investigation, contact a licenced plumber.

Area of responsibility

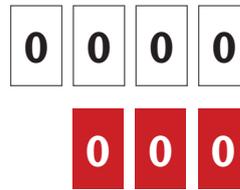


You are responsible for everything on your side of the water meter, including pipes, fittings and appliances. You are also responsible for all water used on your property, including water leaks. Some leaks might be concealed (i.e. underground or in the internal plumbing) and difficult to find. This is why checking your water meter regularly is important.

How to read your water meter

There are a range of different water meters used across Queensland. All have a combination of black and red numbers and/or dials. Five examples are shown in the diagram below.

Read only the first three red numbers or dials. Numbers are read from left to right, while dials are read in a clockwise direction. **If you have trouble reading your water meter, contact your water service provider.**



The black numbers register kilolitres (kL = a thousand litres).

The three red numbers or dials register litres. If there is a fourth red number or dial, this indicates tenths of a litre.

Numbers only:



4 Black numbers
3 Red numbers

When reading these water meters record all numbers.

This is the correct reading on this meter:



4 Black numbers
4 Red numbers

Record all black numbers and the first three of the four red numbers

This is the correct reading on this meter:



X do not read the last number

Numbers and dials: When reading water meters with dials record the numbers first then the dials in a continuing clockwise direction

Numbers and 1 dial

Record all numbers



Do not record this dial

This is the correct reading on this meter:



Numbers and 2 dials

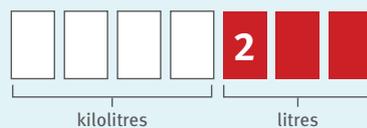
Record all numbers first



Do not record this dial

6 Record this dial second

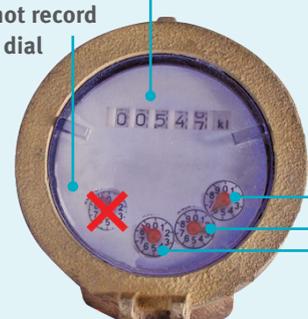
This is the correct reading on this meter:



Numbers and 4 dials

Record all numbers first

Do not record this dial



6 Record this dial second

3 Record this dial third

8 Record this dial fourth

This is the correct reading on this meter:

