

WATER LEAK FACTS

A GUIDE FOR CITY OF ORMOND BEACH WATER CUSTOMERS

HAVE A HIGH WATER BILL, BUT DON'T SEE A LEAK?

Sometimes you may have a leak and not know it. The best indication is high usage on your bill compared to past usage. There are often 2 reasons for mysterious water leaks: a leaking toilet or a small slow drip at a faucet. Outdoor leaks are rare. The first step is to determine whether you actually have a leak, or are just using more water than you expected. Most customers are surprised how much water can be used for routine activities.

SHOWERS	5-10 gallons per minute
TOILETS	7 gallons per minute
WASHING MACHINE	40 gallons per large load
AUTOMATIC DISHWATER	12 gallons per run
BRUSHING TEETH (w/water running)	5 gallons per minute
RINSING DISHES	5 gallons per minute

Water Loss in Gallons

Leak this Size	Loss per Day	Loss per Month
•	120	3,600
•	360	10,800
•	693	20,790
•	1200	36,000
•	1920	57,600
•	3096	92,880
•	4296	128,880
•	6640	199,200
•	6984	209,520
•	8424	252,720
•	9888	296,640
•	11,324	339,720
•	12,720	381,600
•	14,952	448,560

FACTS ON LEAKS

- Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.
- Common types of leaks found in the home include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves.
- Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners more than 10 percent of their water bills.

LEAK DETECTION

- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour-period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.
- One way to find out if you have a toilet leak is to place a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing, you have a leak. Make sure to flush immediately after this experiment to avoid staining the tank.

TOILET

- If your toilet is running constantly, you could be wasting 6,000 gallons of water or more every day.
- If your toilet is leaking, the cause is most often an old, faulty toilet flapper. Over time, this inexpensive rubber part decays, or minerals build up on it. It's usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper – a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.

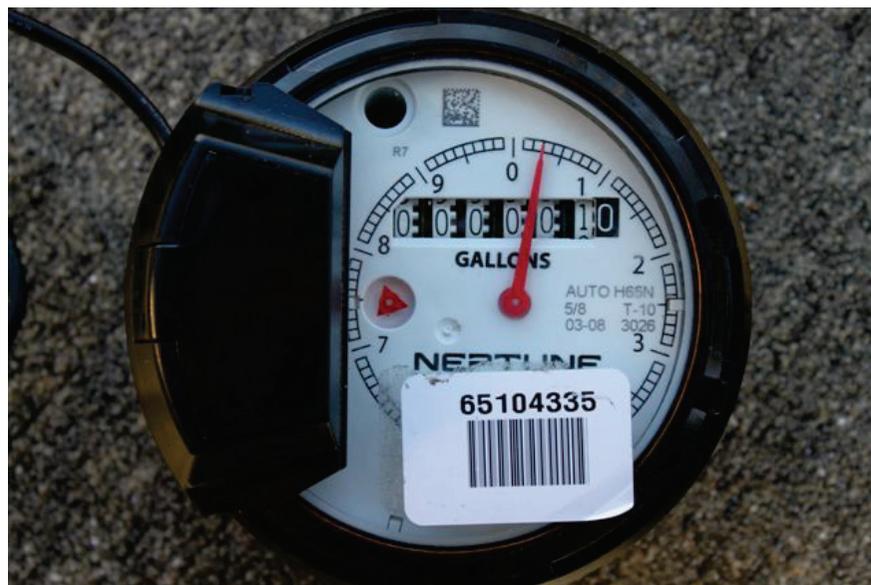
Courtesy of the City of Holly Hill

READING YOUR WATER METER

To help you understand how much water your home or business uses, you will want to know how to read your meter. This will also help you to identify leaks and discover ways to conserve water.

A water meter measures the amount of water entering your plumbing system. Most meters are located in boxes in the ground near the curb.

- 🔧 Open the box carefully and inside you'll find the water meter. The meter dial can be found under the small, hinged cover. If the glass is dirty, wipe it clean to make it easier to read. The meters used in Ormond Beach measure water in gallons.
- 🔧 Your water meter is much like your car's odometer, showing the cumulative total of water that has run through your meter. The sweep hand, which moves like a clock hand, measures each gallon of water, up to 10 gallons.
- 🔧 Notice the first number on the right of the total is a stationary zero; there's no need for it to move because the sweep hand does its work. Except for the stationary zero, the rest of the number is read like an odometer.
- 🔧 The movable dials to the left of the stationary zero read in 10s, 100s, 1,000s of gallons, and so on. A triangular dial near the center of the meter face is used for leak detection and will spin even if there is an extremely low flow through the meter.



METER ACCURACY

The City has repeatedly found that meters less than 10 years in age test very accurately (plus or minus 3 percent), and that meters, when they do begin to lose accuracy, almost always underreport flow passing through them.

WHERE YOUR WATER SYSTEM BEGINS

The City of Ormond Beach provides service and maintenance up to, and including, the meter. Once water exits the meter, it enters the customer's privately owned system and area of responsibility. If City staff observes potential leaks or other problems with your plumbing, they will let you know. However, you are responsible for assessing and making any necessary repairs or calling a qualified plumber to do so on your behalf.