



HOW TO CHECK FOR A LEAK

Meter Location

Water meters are located in the ground usually in a black plastic or concrete box with a steel lid, in one corner of the front yard just back from the property line. The meter lid should say "Water" on it. To access the water meter remove the lid and the water meter will be in under the lid in plain view.

How to Read the Meter

The dials on the water meter show usage similar to the odometer in a vehicle. The digits represent tens, hundreds and thousands of cubic meters (**1 cubic meter = 220 gallons**).

To determine your water usage, write down all the digits shown on the meter face. Then, compare this reading to the last meter reading shown on your Utility bill. Subtract the old reading from the new reading and the result is the volume of water, in cubic meters, used since the last meter reading. If you note the number of days since the last meter reading you can easily calculate the average amount of water used daily by dividing the volume of water by the number of days since the last reading.

For Example:

<i>Volume used since last bill</i>	25520 Gallons (shown on new Utility bill)
<u>Divided by</u>	
<i># of days since your last bill</i>	112 (billed every 4 months, also shown on new bill)
	227 Gallons – Daily Average for water consumption

Checking for a Leak

Discontinue all water usage while you go outside to check your meter. If a leak is present, the panel of numbers on the water meter face will be advancing. A small leak may only cause the black triangle or red dial to spin. If the meter indicates water usage and you are sure there is no water being used in the house, close the main shut-off valve to the house. If the triangle or red dial have stopped spinning, there is likely a leak inside the house (i.e. a dripping tap or running toilet). If the triangle or red dial are still spinning, there is likely a leak somewhere in the yard.

Irrigation System

Write down the water meter reading before and after your outdoor irrigation system completes a cycle. Anything more than 1 – 2 cubic meters (220-440 gallons) for one cycle is considered excessive. An irrigation professional can review your outdoor irrigation system for unnecessary use and check for broken pipes and fittings. The City of Nanaimo does not adjust for water lost due to a leak in an irrigation system.

*Water meters should not be adjusted and/or removed by anyone other than the City of Nanaimo Utilities staff.

Questions or concerns, please contact: City of Nanaimo – Utilities Department
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