

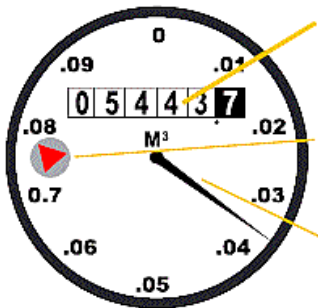


Municipality of North Perth Water/Sewer information

How to Read Your Water Meter

Reading your meter will assist you to identify any leaks. By finding and fixing them, you can save yourself some money. A typical residential or small commercial user water meter will measure your water use in cubic meters. Each meter will show a series of numbers with a decimal point. The numbers to the left of the decimal point represent water consumption in cubic meters. The numbers to the right of the decimal point represent a fraction of a cubic meter that has been consumed. In addition, each meter has a flow indicator that spins whenever water is used.

To monitor your consumption take a reading at a set time of the day, then take another reading the same time the next day. The difference between the two readings is your daily water consumption.



ODOMETER: Reads in Cubic Metres. The black wheel is a decimal so the consumption on this meter is 5443.7 Cubic Meters.

RED TRIANGLE: Measures flow as slow as 0.5 Litres (1/8 Gallon) per minute. If this triangle is moving when everything that uses water is turned off you may have a leak.

SWEEP HAND: Ten complete revolutions = One Cubic Metre = 1,000 Litres = 220 Gallons

How to Find Leaks and Save Money

With your water meter it is possible to find out if there are any water leaks in your household or place of business. To find out, turn off all water using fixtures and appliances including the furnace humidifier, the water softener (if you have one), the ice cube maker in the fridge or any other such sources. (Remember to turn these on again after your leak test.)

If all the water uses are shut off and the flow indicator is moving, then you have a leak. Try to identify and repair the source of the leak or call a plumber if you need assistance.

Other Ways to Reduce your Bill

In the Bathroom

In spring and autumn, check for toilet leaks. Lift off the toilet lid and drip 10 drops of food colouring into the tank. After 10-15 minutes, check for dye colour in the toilet bowl – if you see any dye colour, your toilet has a leak. Toilet leaks can waste hundreds of litres a day. If water is flowing down the overflow pipe, adjust the float. Otherwise replace the flapper with a good quality model.

If you are a large water user, consider replacing your existing toilet with a high-efficiency, water saver toilet that uses only 6 liters per flush. On average most existing toilets use about 16 litres per flush. Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket. Bugs and used facial tissue should go in the trash.

Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your face and you'll save 10 to 30 litres of water each minute.

Install low-flow faucet aerators that use no more than 9 litres of water per minute. Most faucets use between 12 and 30 litres per minute.

Fix leaky faucets right away. Simply replacing the washer may fix the leak. Even small drips caused by worn washers can waste 90 litres of water or more a day. Large leaks can waste hundreds of litres.

Shorten your shower time. A five minute shower instead of a ten minute shower will save anywhere from 50 to 100 litres.

Install a high-efficiency, low-flow shower head that uses no more than 9 litres of water per minute.

When taking a bath, close the tub drain before turning on the water to avoid wasting cold water that will be needed later on to cool the bath.

In the Kitchen

Instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cold enough to drink, keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator. Faucets can use from 12 to 30 litres of water per minute.

Clean vegetables and fruit in a pan of water, not under a running faucet. Use a vegetable brush to remove dirt.

Run the dishwasher only when it's fully loaded. Most dishwashers use between 50 and 65 litres of water, full or empty. When loading the dishwasher, scrape food off dishes and pots instead of rinsing them.

When defrosting food, thaw it in the refrigerator instead of running water. This may take some extra time but will save a good deal of water.

For your kitchen sink, install a high efficiency low-flow faucet.

If you wash dishes by hand, fill the sink or a pan with soapy water instead of letting the faucet run while soaping dishes. Rinse dishes in a filled sink or a pan of water and avoid running the faucet to rinse.

Laundry

Washers use between 135 and 225 litres of water per full load. Run the washing machine only when it's fully loaded. Some washing machines have controls that let you select the load size appropriate to the load. Small loads need less water.

If you're thinking about buying a new washing machine, consider the new front load washers. These cost more, but these use 1/3 less water per load and require less energy for drying than top-loading washing machines.

Saving Water Outdoors

Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways, sidewalks, and other hard surfaces.

If you own a pool, get a cover for it to help prevent pool water evaporation. A pool can lose about 4500 litres of water per month. A pool cover can cut this loss by up to 90%.

Don't let your hose run while washing your car – use a bucket and brush and rinse with a hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle.

Adjust your lawnmower to a higher setting. Longer grass blades on your lawn grass provide shade and help hold moisture in longer.

Lay mulch around trees and plants at least 2.5 centimeters or 1 to 2 inches deep to retain moisture, slow evaporation, and discourage weed growth.

When watering your lawn, water infrequently, but thoroughly applying 2.5 centimeters or 1 inch so that moisture soaks down to the roots. This encourages deeper, healthier root systems and allows the lawn to go without water for a longer time. Place a tuna can on the part of the lawn that you are watering to determine how much you are putting on. Stop when you have 2.5 cm or 1 inch in the can.

Water during the cool of the day to reduce loss to evaporation – late evening or early morning.

Set your sprinkler to avoid watering patios, drives and walks.

If you don't have an automatic sprinkling system, set a kitchen timer or invest in a sprinkler timer to help prevent over-watering. Outdoor faucets can flow at rates as high as 1300 litres per hour.

For more information, please contact:

Lois McLaughlin, Tel: (519)292-2046, or email: lois@northperth.ca