

## WATER USAGE - SELF DIAGNOSTIC GUIDE

We would like to take this time to remind homeowners how important it is for you to monitor your water usage and take time to read your water meter. Monitoring water usage is the responsibility of the water customer.

Your water meter has many features that will allow us to help our customers understand their usage as well as troubleshoot problems within their home plumbing systems. Reading your water meter has never been easier. Figure A is a picture of your water meter. Pull up on tab that overhangs the side of the top of the water meter to open the hinged door (Figure B). Inside the door you will see a series of digits and other data (Figure C). Your water meter has 9 digits reading from left to right. The first seven have a line over them followed by a decimal point and two digits with no line over them. The first seven digits with the line over them are whole gallons and are used to determine your monthly water meter reading. The last two digits following the decimal point are tenths and one hundredths of a gallon. These two digits are important for you as a homeowner to watch in order to determine if there is a leak in your plumbing system. If you have all of the water off inside the home and you continue to see these two digits increase, you should investigate all of your plumbing fixtures to determine where the leak is.



Figure A.



Figure B.

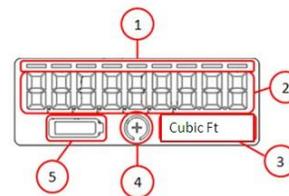


Figure C.

## HELPFUL TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

**Leaking toilet flappers are the most common source of a leak within a home.**

### Testing toilets to investigate leaks

1. Clean your toilet.
2. Purchase food coloring or dye tabs found at hardware store specifically for this purpose.
3. Remove top of rear toilet tank and add dye to the water.
4. Wait 15 minutes. Make sure nobody else tries to use the toilet during that time.
5. If the dye is in your toilet bowl, you have a leak. If no dye can be seen in your toilet bowl you do not have a leak.

**Irrigation usage is the most common source of high summer bills**

### Monitoring Irrigation Usage

1. Read and record the first seven digits (reading from left to right) on the top of your water meter prior to running your irrigation system.
2. Run your irrigation system for an entire cycle without using any other water inside the home.
3. After running your irrigation system, reread and record the first seven digits (reading from left to right) on the top of your water meter.
4. Subtract the first reading from the final reading to determine how many gallons your sprinkler system uses each time you run it.

If you discover that this abnormal water usage is related to a leak on your property, call a licensed plumber to have the source repaired.

If you have questions regarding your water meter, please call the Department of Public Services Water division at 248-530-1722.