



Understanding Your Water Meter



Did you know?

Much like an automobile or other mechanical device, a meter slows down with age and eventually can stop registering completely. The mechanical parts are not capable of “speeding up” or registering a higher reading than actual.

Is my bill accurate?

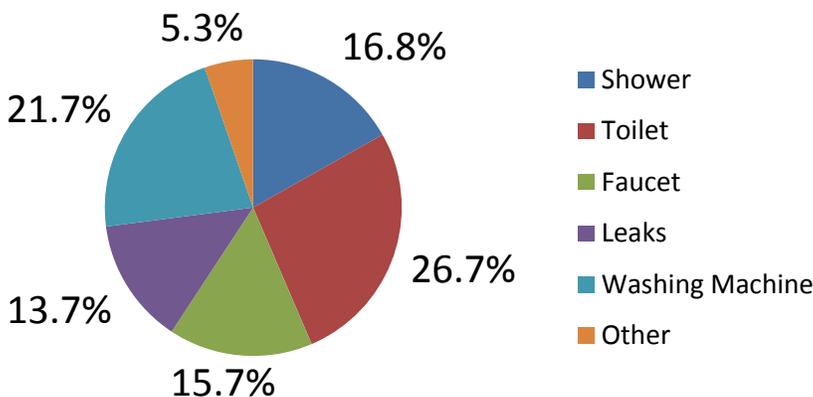
All meters are calibrated and tested before installation. The American Water Works Association requires meters to be within 98.5 and 101.5% accuracy to be usable. Having a meter register 20,000 gallons of consumption when the usage was actually 4,000 gallons would be like a vehicle with a maximum speed of 100 mph suddenly being able to intermittently run at speeds of 500 mph. It is mechanically impossible!

If you wish to monitor your meter readings and usage, you can do the following:

- ✓ Note on your current bill the “service to” date and the present water usage reading
- ✓ Write down your reading on approximately the same date of the following month
- ✓ Subtract your reading from the previous reading on your bill to determine your consumption during this period
- ✓ Note that the exact reading date may be a few days before or after the date you read due to scheduling, weekends, etc.
- ✓ Compare your calculated consumption to your next bill
- ✓ If you want to narrow down the time period for excess consumption, take your reading on a weekly basis (or even daily if you’re really ambitious!)



Indoor Household Water Use



Your meter reading

The meter dial is like the odometer on your car. It continually reads your water consumption and is a cumulative total of the water that has run through that meter since it was installed. Meter reading occurs once a month and, in most cases, is done by electronic transmission to a highly-accurate hand-held device. Therefore it is uncommon for a meter reader to provide an inaccurate meter reading.