

Detecting leaks and reading your water meter

Know how to check for leaks and understand how to read your water meter to help you reduce water consumption and save money.

Did you know?

- A slow dripping tap can waste more than 9000 litres of water per year. Make sure you turn all your taps off properly and check washers for wear.
- A continuously running toilet can waste more than 60 000 litres of water per year. Check for leaks regularly and fix them as soon as possible.
- A tiny leak in your pool or spa can lose a large amount of water and cost you money.
- Many household leaks are not easily detected. It's important to find out how much water you use and investigate any unexplained increases in use.

Using your water meter to conduct a leak test

1. Find your water meter and write down all the numbers shown.
2. Turn off all taps tightly within the property
3. Do not use any water on the premises for the next four or five hours.
3. Take another reading of the water meter after four or five hours, check the water meter reading.

If the meter reading has changed and shows consumption, then this would indicate there is a leak within the internal system. An internal leak is the responsibility of the property owner as it occurs within their property boundaries. A plumber should be called to fix an internal leak.

Measuring your household water consumption

- Check your water meter monthly or quarterly to monitor and understand how much water you use. This will also help locate leaks early, saving you both water and money.
- Check your water notice for water usage information. The notice may include your household's daily water consumption figure as well as an average figure for all households in your area.
- Complete the Home waterwise quiz. Contact your local council for a copy of the quiz or search "waterwise" at www.qld.gov.au.

Locating your water meter

A water meter measures the amount of water that each property uses. It will generally be located outside in the ground towards the front of a property. Most are at or below ground level and have a metal or plastic lid. If you live in a unit or apartment block, there may not be an individual water meter for each residence. You may want to investigate the feasibility of installing individual meters.



How to read your water meter

There is a range of different water meters in use across the state. All have a combination of black numbers and red numbers and/or dials. Five examples are shown in the diagram below.

The black numbers register kilolitres (kL = a thousand litres).

There are three red numbers or dials registering litres.

(If there is a fourth red number or dial, this indicates tenths of a litre.)

Read only the first three red numbers or dials. Numbers are read from left to right, while dials are read in a clockwise direction. If you have trouble reading your water meter, contact your local council.

More information

To find out more information on water saving practices, contact your local council or water service provider or visit the Department of Resources website at www.dnrme.qld.gov.au.

Please note, only the black numbers are used for billing purposes.

NUMBERS ONLY

kilolitres litres

4 BLACK NUMBERS AND 3 RED NUMBERS



When reading these water meters **record all numbers**

This is the correct reading on this meter:
 2 9 3 3

OR

4 BLACK NUMBERS AND 4 RED NUMBERS



Record all **black numbers** and the first **three of the four red numbers**

This is the correct reading on this meter:
 2 9 3 3 ~~3~~
 ✗ Do not record the last number

NUMBERS AND DIALS

kilolitres litres

When reading water meters **with dials** record the numbers **first** then the dials **in a continuing clockwise direction**

NUMBERS AND 1 DIAL



Record all the numbers

Do not record this dial

This is the correct reading on this meter:
 1 0 1

OR

NUMBERS AND 2 DIALS



Record all the numbers first

Record this dial second

Do not record this dial

This is the correct reading on this meter:
 2 8 6

OR

NUMBERS AND 4 DIALS



Record all the numbers first

Record this dial second

Do not record this dial

Record this dial fourth

This is the correct reading on this meter:
 5 4 7 6 3 8