

## Think You Have A Leak?

If you think you have a leak, there is a simple test you can perform:

- First, turn off all faucets and water-using appliances.
- Locate your water meter and lift the cover to view the meter dial.
- Note the position of the sweep-hand or place a piece of tape over the lens cover and mark where the sweep-hand is.
- Wait 20-30 minutes, don't use any water, and check the sweep-hand location. If the sweep-hand has moved, you may have a leak somewhere in your system.

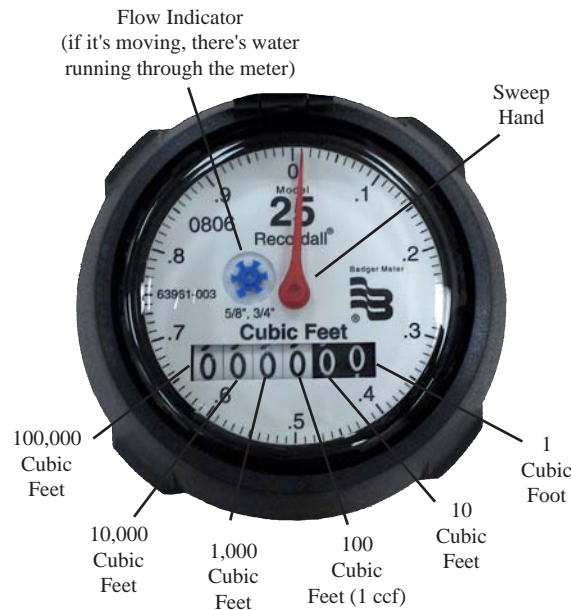
Call TVWD at (503) 642-1511 if you need help finding your water meter or you need your meter turned off for plumbing repairs.

### Common Sources of Leaks

- Your toilet may have a silent leak. Drop a little food coloring into the tank. Wait about 10 minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.
- Check for moist spots around and under the house plumbing and around outdoor plumbing.
- Replace worn washers in faucets and showerheads. Even a small drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water each day, or 5,000 gallons per month.

TVWD has a kit available to help you determine if you have a water leak or are using a large amount of water. To request one, contact our Conservation Department at [conservation@tvwd.org](mailto:conservation@tvwd.org) or (503) 848-3056.

## How To Read Your Water Meter



Reading your water meter is like reading the odometer of your car. Read the numbers from left to right that appear under the words "Cubic Feet." The first digit on the right represents one cubic foot. The second from the right represents 10 cubic feet. The third from the right (usually a different color) represents 100 cubic feet – or one ccf. One revolution of the meter sweep-hand equals one cubic foot, or 7.48 gallons.

TVWD bills water in CCFs, which equals 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons.

### Did you recently repair a water leak?

If so, you may be eligible for a partial billing adjustment. Visit [www.tvwd.org](http://www.tvwd.org) for more information.

## Tualatin Valley Water District



1850 SW 170th Ave.  
Beaverton, OR 97006  
(503) 642-1511  
[www.tvwd.org](http://www.tvwd.org)

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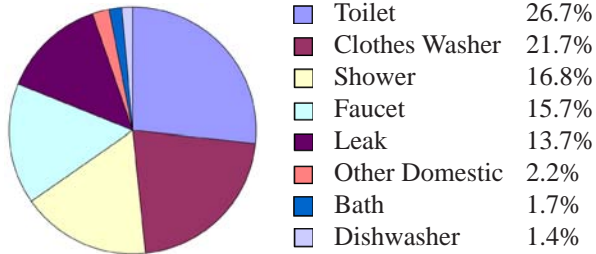
# Did I Really Use That Much Water?



**We Can Help You Find The Answer**

# Did I Really Use That Much Water?

Did you know that most people use an average of 70-90 gallons of water per day? In the average house, two thirds of indoor water is used in the bathroom. Take some time to go through your house or apartment and look for ways to conserve!



Average Household Water Use. Source: American Water Works Association Residential End Uses of Water 1999

## Bathroom

- Check toilets for leaks by placing food coloring into the tank and see if color appears in the toilet bowl without flushing. A leak in the toilet can waste thousands of gallons a year.
- Place a plastic container or water dam in the tank of **older** toilets. This displaces water, reducing the water used per flush without impairing efficiency. Do not do this with newer, low-flow toilets.
- Shorter showers can save 5 to 10 gallons per shower.
- Replace the showerhead with a low-flow model.
- Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even a small drip could waste more than 1,500 gallons a month.
- Turn off the faucet while shaving or brushing your teeth. Leaving the water running can waste 5 gallons.
- Install a low-flow faucet aerator. Aerators restrict flow without interfering with efficiency.

## Kitchen

- Use faucets at less than full pressure.
- Hand wash dishes by filling the sink or dishpan for washing and another for rinsing.
- Fill the sink to wash vegetables and other foods instead of rinsing them under running water.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running water until it is cold.
- Install a low-flow faucet aerator. Aerators restrict flow without interfering with efficiency.
- Only run a full load of dishes in the dishwasher using the shortest running cycle.
- Scrape dishes instead of using the pre-rinse cycle.



## Clothes Washing

- Install water-efficient washing machines which typically use 35 to 50% less water and 50% less energy per load than other models. You could save 7,000 gallons of water a year, not to mention savings on your energy bill! In addition, there are many rebates and tax credits available.
- Run the washing machine only when you have a full load of laundry.



## Outdoor Use

- Are you curious about how much water your landscape uses? The average sprinkler uses about 10 gallons per minute. Multiply your watering time by 10 gallons to find out how much water is used per watering session.
- Water thoroughly but infrequently to produce a deep rooted lawn that's water-efficient and drought tolerant. You only need about an inch of water a week - the amount that would fill a tuna can - to maintain a healthy lawn.
- Water to the weather. A hearty rain can eliminate the need for watering - install a rain sensor that shuts down automatic irrigation systems when it rains. Make monthly (or even better - weekly!) adjustments to your irrigation controller to account for weather changes.
- If your lawn springs back when you step on it, it doesn't need water. Water early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid evaporation caused by watering in the heat of the day.
- Mow your lawn 2" - 3" high. Thick grass provides shade to the roots and helps prevent weed growth. Also, sharpen your lawn mower blades. Dull blades leave ragged edges on grass blades, which soaks up water.
- Use drip irrigation. It is a good alternative for flowerbeds and shrubs that applies water directly to the roots, which significantly reduces evaporation.
- Because your lawn uses the most water in your landscape, keep it to a functional size to save water and money.
- Think about replacing some of your lawn with ground covers or drought-resistant native trees, plants and grasses.



TVWD offers Residential Washing Machine, High-Efficiency (HET) Toilet, and Weather-Based Irrigation Rebates. Visit [www.twvd.org](http://www.twvd.org) for more information!