

Water for all... for ALWAYS



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This new education program, launched in May 2008, strives to answer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Town of Olds water and wastewater systems, water conservation, water use, water meters and billing, and other topics about water.

Posted 16 May 2008

How do I read the dial on my Water Meter?

The Town of Olds is in the process of replacing old residential water meters with new Sensus ICE meters with readouts similar to this diagram. Your current water meter readout or dial may not exactly resemble this one, but the way you read it is the same no matter what type of meter you have. It's easy - from left to right, simply read the four numbers to the LEFT of the decimal place. Remember - you do not have to read your own meter, but if you are concerned about bi-monthly estimates you can phone (556-6981) or email (utilities@olds.ca) your reading to us by the last working day of the month.

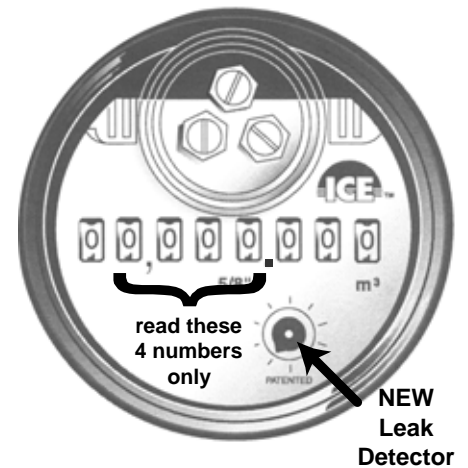
Should I check for Leaks?

Yes. One cubic-meter (m³) of water = 1000 litres. A 1/8" diameter continuous leak from a faucet wastes about 12 m³ of water a day, which currently costs you about \$190. Left long enough, even a slow undetected drip or silent leak can cost you hundreds of dollars a year. Make it a habit to check your home for leaks on a regular basis.

How do I check for Leaks?

All water meters, regardless of type, have gauges on them that show if your meter is registering water usage. In the case above, it's the placeholder to the right of the decimal. In addition, newer meters have Leak Detectors that measure water usage in tiny increments. If your Leak Detector arrow is moving, you may have an undetected leak in your house. Here are two simple checks you can do:

- 1) Toilets - add two drops of food colouring to your toilet tank. If the water in the bowl is coloured after about half an hour, you have a leaky toilet. Call your plumber.
- 2) Faucets, Garden Hoses - as mentioned above, even a slow drip from a faucet or hose can waste a lot of water over time. Replace the washers and/or other old or faulty parts, and make sure your family always ensures faucets and hoses are completely turned off after use.



Next issue...

Ways to reduce your Consumption

For more information visit the **Olds Sustainable Living** page at www.olds.ca