

## How to Read Your Water Meter

The water meter is an important tool for understanding and monitoring the water use at your property. By reading your water meter frequently you can detect water loss very easily.

Meter reading works similar to a car's odometer reading. As water goes through your meter, it forces the numbers to change.

Typically meters are located in your basement or in a meter pit near the street. Customers who are unable to find the water meter at their property may contact our office to request assistance locating the water meter.

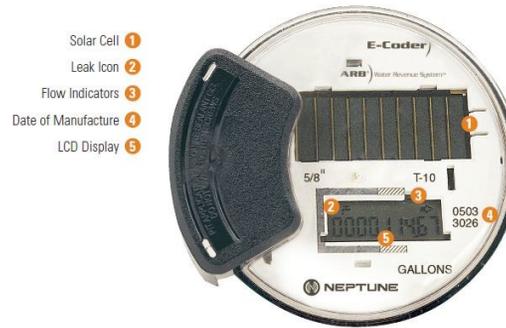
The Town currently has two types of meters- Analog and Digital. The analog meters have an odometer, similar to your , a sweep hand, which measures partial cubic feet of water and a leak detecting arrow. The Digital meter have a digital readout that can be seen with a flashlight.

If you have an analog reading device, your meter read will be all of the numbers across the odometer. If the Odometer has stationary numbers (zeros that do not move), then those are added to the whole number. This is the total reading of water through the meter, in cubic feet. To convert this to gallons, simply multiply this number by 7.48.

If you have a digital reading device, you will need a LED or high-intensity flashlight to turn on the energy saving screen. Once the light is shined on the solar cell, readout will show all "8"s, then a register screen, then the reading. The digital reading will be all of the number shown. And includes two decimal places. This is the total reading of water through the meter, in cubic feet. To convert this to gallons, simply multiply this number by 7.48.

Check your meter face read against your bill to confirm that your bill is correct. If you notice any discrepancies, please call the Water Dept.

## E-CODER DIGITAL METER



- "Wakes Up" with a LED or high-intensity flashlight
- Hold light and wait for reading (with decimal places).
- To Check for Leaks look for the leak icon on the left side of the LCD screen (faucet).
- Write down the reading and compare with your water bill.
- Call the Water Dept. if there is a significant

## ANALOG METER

- Works like a car odometer.
- Check for Leak by observing the leak indicating Triangle on the left. If it is spinning while the water is off, you have a leak.
- Write down the reading and compare with your water bill.
- Call the Water Dept. if there is a significant difference.



*A Resident's Guide to*

# Water Use in North Attleborough



Town of  
**North Attleborough**

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
*Serving North Attleborough ~ Protecting the Environment*



**Telephone: (508) 695-7790**

**[www.north-attleboro.ma.us](http://www.north-attleboro.ma.us)**

# A Resident's Guide to Water Use in North Attleborough



## Chasing the Leaks

Leaks can increase the water usage in homes by more than double the domestic use. Finding and repairing leaks helps both the property owner and the Town by reducing the

amount of water that needs to be produced. This is why we strongly encourage residents to chase down and fix leaks.

### How to Check for Leaks

- Turn off all faucets in and around the house including dishwashers and washing machines and make sure all outside valves are off.
- Find your water meter. And look for the leak indicator on your meter. The indicator is in the shape of a small, red triangle on older meters.
- If the leak indicator is spinning, water is running through the meter and you might have a leak.
- If you do not have a leak indicator, write down all the numbers on the register. Leave all of the water off in the house and check the meter again in 1 to 2 hours. If the numbers have changed, you might have a leak.
- Check your toilet for leaks. First listen to the toilet to see if it is running. If you don't hear anything, pour a small amount (2-3 drops) of colored dye into the tank, but do not flush. Let the dye sit in the tank for 15 minutes. If the color appears in the bowl, you have a leak. Flush the toilet to avoid staining the tank.

## Leaks Can Add Up Fast

Leak Source	Typical Leakage	Gallons/Day Used	Gallons/Month Used
Running Toilet	1 gallon/hour	24	720
Leaking Faucet	1 drip/second	9	259
Leaking Shower-head	10 drips/minute	1.4	43
In-ground irrigation	1/32" in diameter (about the thickness of a dime)	210	6,300
A garden hose left running or a missing sprinkler head	1/2" hose (3 gallons per minute)	4,320	129,600



So When You Find a Leak, Fix the Leak!

## Water Saving Tips

- Water your lawn and outdoor plants early in the day to reduce evaporation.
- Use Low-Flow shower heads
- Turn the water off while soaping hand and brushing teeth.
- Do not use a hose to wash your driveway, use a broom instead.
- Upgrade appliances to save water and energy.
- Use a bucket to wash your car and keep the hose off until rinsing.
- Make sure your irrigation system has a rain sensor.
- Find out how much water is used during irrigation. Take a reading from your meter and then run your irrigation system for a full cycle. Take the reading again. Subtract your second reading from your first and then multiply by 7.48. this is the total gallons per cycle in gallons. Every 1,000 gallons of water adds about \$5.30 to your bill. So if you use 750 gallons and are water twice a week under the Town's conservation policy, your lawn watering would be about \$8.00 per week



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