



Activity Sheet

WATER

At home: overuse of water can cost a lot of money.

Activity

Read your water meter and check to see if you have a leak

Make sure you have a parent to help you read your water meter at home.

Step 1:

Locate your water meter. They are generally at front of your property. If you have trouble contact Council to find out the exact location.

Step 2:

Open the lid (usually grey) to reveal the meter dials. Make sure you check for and remove any insects or small reptiles.

Step 3:

Read and record your meter, reading from left to right. The white dials you will see represent kilolitres and the red dials represent litres, e.g. the dial furthest right represents 1L. 1000 litres equals 1 kilolitre.

Hot tip If the dials on your meter are moving but there is not water being used in your home it is likely you have a leak.

Note down your reading:



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Early leak detection

You can lose a few litres of water an hour from a slow dripping tap. If the leak is from a hot water pipe or a pumped water supply, you'll also be facing a significant energy cost.

A continuously running toilet can waste up to 60,000 litres of water per year, yet toilet leaks often go unnoticed as the water trickles down the back of the bowl. This makes fast detection and repair even more important.

Use your meter to check for leaks

- Choose a time when you are not using any appliances that use water i.e. overnight.
- Make sure all taps are turned off .
- Allow all tanks and cisterns to completely fill (this can take up to 30 minutes) .
- Take an initial meter reading (read both the black and the red digits).
- Leave all appliances turned off overnight.
- Take another reading first thing in the morning before you use any water.
- Check if the last numbers on the dial have changed. If yes, you have a leak. The greater the change, the bigger the leak!
- If you suspect you have a large leak, you'll probably need help from a plumber with specialist equipment .

Other checks to Make

- Check your taps and toilets regularly for signs or sounds of leaks .
- Check your hot water system's expansion valves when you haven't used any hot water for a while. The valve shouldn't be constantly leaking water.
- Disconnect hoses or irrigation pipes that are always connected to garden taps. Then check the taps aren't leaking .
- Look for green patches of grass that are different from the grass around it. This can mean you have an underground pipe leak.
- Toilet cisterns shouldn't release any water between flushes. To check yours, place a small piece of dry toilet paper at the back of the toilet bowl and check that it stays dry until the next flush.

If you want to check your toilets for other leaks, follow these simple steps:

1. Remove the lid of your toilet cistern.
2. Place a few drops of food dye into the cistern.
3. Do not flush your toilet for 10-15 minutes.
4. If the dye has seeped down into the bowl when you return, then you know you have a leak.