

## My water bill seems high – is there a problem with the meter?

Chances are the high water bill is not being caused by a malfunctioning water meter. There are a couple of tests you can run yourself before calling the RM:

1. On the face of the meter where the numbers are located, there is a separate dial with either a red line or a red triangle in it. This red line/triangle is called a water flow indicator. If you are not running any water in the house and you check the water flow indicator, it should not be moving. If it IS moving, it means there is water flowing through the meter and out somewhere in the house – either a leaky tap or toilet. Experience suggests that more often than not it is a toilet that is the culprit. Toilets can have very silent leaks where water is constantly running through them.
2. To check your toilet for leaks, before you go to bed at night put a few drops of food coloring in the tank at the back of the toilet. Do not flush the toilet overnight. In the morning, check the bowl of the toilet. If the colored water is now in the bowl, you know there has been water leaking from the tank into the bowl. You need to get this repaired in order to reduce your water usage.
3. Dripping taps are usually quite obvious and often are a simple fix. Replacement of washers or other small parts may solve the problem.

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Leak size - equivalent to openings of:	1/16 inch	1/8 inch	1/4 inch
Litres per hour	113	452	1813

**\*\* Note: 1 cubic meter = 1000 litres = 220.1 gallons**

You can keep track of your usage by taking daily readings for a few days. Take the readings at the same time of the day for 2 or 3 days in a row to see what your average consumption is over a 24 hour period. Abnormal readings could indicate leaks and money down the drain if they are not repaired.