



## **WATER CONSERVATION AND LEAK PREVENTION**

Saving water helps with sustainable demands and has helped residents control their water, sewer and energy costs. Lower your household water use and costs today! Here are some of the ways to make your home and daily habits more water efficient.

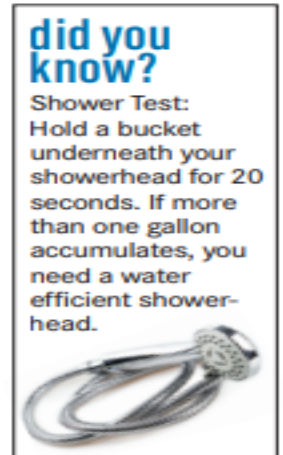
### **HOW TO FIND AND FIX LEAKS: A Simple Test for Leaks**

A leaky faucet is pretty obvious, but hidden leaks in the toilet, under the sink, or behind a washing machine can waste a significant amount of water. Leaks can damage your floors or ceilings. Take a reading of your water meter- (see back page to familiarize with your new meter). Make sure no one uses any water in your home. Wait an hour. Check it again. If the reading has changed, you have got at least one leak and you need to investigate.

#### **Faucets, Toilets and Showerheads**

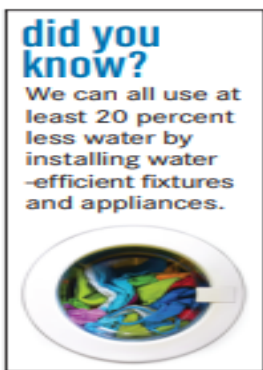
Check for leaky pipes, faucets, or toilets. Trickling sounds you hear in the bathroom could be a leaky toilet wasting 50 gallons of water a day or more. Sometimes leaks are silent. Try this: Simply add a dye tablet or food coloring to your toilet's water tank. Wait for 15 minutes without flushing, if any colored dye appears in the bowl, you have a leak. The flush valve or flapper can be easily cleaned or replaced. Dripping or trickling faucets and showerheads can waste 75 to several hundred gallons of water a week depending on the size of the drip. Worn-out washers are the main cause of these leaks and a new one generally costs about 50 cents.

Faucets typically use 2 to 7 gallons per minute. Installing a low-flow (1.5-gallon per minute) faucet aerator can reduce the flow significantly. Be sure to remove your aerator periodically to clean the particles that may have collected in the screen.



### **IN THE BATHROOM**

Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving: save 1-2 gallons per minute. Installing a low-flow faucet aerator can reduce the flow from 2-7 gallons to 1.5 gallons per minute.



Don't take marathon showers: five minutes will get you clean. This saves 2-4 gallons per minute. Showering for 5 minutes uses only 10-25 gallons

Fill your bathtub only halfway: save 5 gallons or more and save on hot water costs, too. A full bathtub uses up to 70 gallons.

Toilets alone are a major source of household water use, accounting for a third of residential indoor water consumption. Do NOT treat your toilet as a wastebasket! Low-flush toilets could cut your home water consumption by 25% or more! save 1-7 gallons per flush. Old inefficient toilets can use over 6 gallons per flush. Newer models can use as little as 1.3 gallons per flush. Search for 'WaterSense' labeled toilets, with various options on both high efficiency and high-performance models to meet your family's needs while also saving you water.

### **KITCHEN/APPLIANCES:**

Look for the 'Energy Star' label for the most efficient household products and appliances. Reduce your water consumption by only washing full loads of dishes or clothes. High-efficiency dishwashers can save you

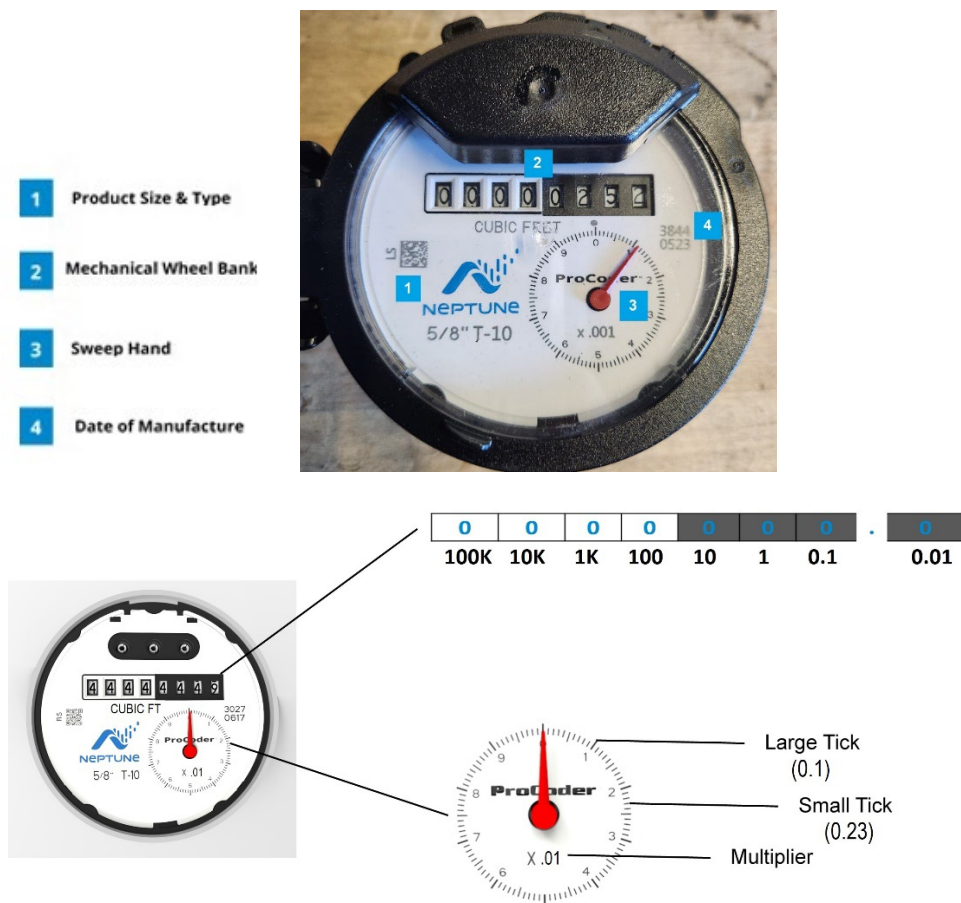
money, water, and time. A certified dishwasher costs \$35 per year to run. On average, a new high efficiency dishwasher can save you 3,870 gallons over its lifetime. High-efficiency washing machines can save more than 2,000 gallons of water per year compared to a standard machine.

**HOW DO I KNOW IF HIGHER WATER USAGE MAY BE A RESULT OF A LEAK IN MY PLUMBING SYSTEM?** Please note, the below is a standard 5/8-inch pro-coder Neptune meter. If you have a different size meter, it may look a little different. The various Neptune meter specifications are available on the Neptune website: <https://www.neptunetg.com/products/watermeters/>

If you'd like to identify a leak through the new meter, here are steps to follow:

Familiarize with your new Neptune pro-coder meter. To determine if water is in use, complete the following steps:

1. Look at the mechanical sweep hand



2. Turn off all faucets, showers, dishwashers and washing machines in the house. Make sure no one is using the toilets. You must ensure no water is running. Now determine which of the following conditions exist:

The sweep hand is moving slowly in a clockwise direction.	Water is running very slowly. (typical of a leak)
The sweep hand is moving quickly	Water is running
The sweep hand is not moving	Water is not running

Visit the DPW website – water department for more information. Call us with any questions: 978-562-9333

TOWN OF HUDSON  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

If you are concerned about your water usage, the first thing you can check is your water meter.

We recommend at some point, whether it's over night when everyone is sleeping or during the day when people are at work or school, read your water meter number and write it down.

Four to five hours later, read your meter again. If the number has changed when no one is using any water, something within your house is pulling in water.

A meter will not move unless water is pulled in.

Meters cannot speed up, if anything they stop working.

Toilets are usually the number one problem. Your toilet can be leaking without puddling on the floor. See water wise tips.

Irrigation system can also cause a large issue. See water lawn care.

Please check every aspect of water being used in your house, leaking or dripping faucets (inside & outside), some central ac units have a moisturizer with a water line connected, baseboard heating or under the floor heating units, water lines to ice machines, etc.

If you have had a new water meter installed, you will no longer receive an estimated bill. The new meters are a radio read drive by system, so you will always have an actual bill.

We have starting installing new meters by sections of town and are hoping to have the whole town completed in 2-3 years.

Thank you. Hudson Public Works Water Department

## BE WATER-WISE ABOUT YOUR PLUMBING

**Tiny drips from your faucets and or toilets can waste about 100 gallons of water a day. This could add \$80 or more to your quarterly water and sewer bill!**

### **Faucets**

Most leaks at the faucet or showerhead are due to worn washers. A little leak loses a lot of water. Please make it a habit to check all faucets including those seldom used in the basement (clothes washer), garage, and/or outside. Usually replacing a simple washer will stem the tide. A slow drip can add up to 15 or 20 gallons a day. Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth or shave. You can save four to ten gallons of water a day.

### **Toilets**

Toilets are notorious for their hidden leaks. Toilet leaks can waste a significant amount of water. Most toilet leaks occur at the overflow pipe or at the plunger ball inside the tank. Remove the tank lid and flush the toilet. The level of the water should be about a half-inch below the overflow pipe.

If the water level is higher than a half-inch below the overflow pipe gently bend the arm until the valve shuts off the water at a lower level.

Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. It means that you probably have a leak at the plunger ball or the mechanism is out of alignment.

Another tip is toilets should not be used as trash cans to flush away tissues, cigarette butts, spiders or anything else that ought to go in a wastebasket or garbage can.

### **Showers**

Bathing is the second highest use of indoor water. A five-minute shower is usually all that's needed. You can conserve five to ten gallons of water a minute with a short shower. Low-flow showerheads can save 10-20 gallons of water during a five-minute shower.

## BE WATER-WISE WHEN CARING FOR YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN

You don't have to water on a set schedule. Water only when the grass or plants show signs of needing it. To test whether or not your lawn needs soaking, step on the grass. If it springs back up, you don't need to water. If it stays flat, it's time to water again (in the morning. The earlier, the better.) During a cool or cloudy spell, you don't need to water as often. Avoid watering on windy days and you'll avoid having most of the water go where you don't want it. If you let water sink deep, the lawn will develop deeper roots and won't need watering as often, as well as being more resistant to disease and wear.

A kitchen timer is a handy reminder for turning off sprinklers. Make sure when the sprinklers are on that they cover just the lawn or garden, not sidewalks, driveways and gutters.

Learn how to turn off an automatic lawn sprinkler in case of rain. How many times have you passed a property with the sprinkler system on and it is raining?

Check for and fix any leaks in outdoor hoses, pipes, faucets, and connections. Outdoor leaks are often not as visible as leaks inside the home. But they can waste just as much water.

Don't leave your garden hose unattended. A garden hose can pour out more than 600 gallons of water in just a few hours.

Use a broom rather than a water hose to clean sidewalks, driveways and patios.

Longer grass means less evaporation. Let grass grow taller in hot, dry weather. Set the mower one notch higher.