



Why is it important for check for leaks?

- Leaks waste water. A dripping tap may not seem like a lot but left unchecked it can add up. A tap that drips 60 times a minute can waste around 20 litres of water per day. This could add up costing you money over time.
- Leaks can cause damage to your property. Leaks can cause damp or rot in your home. Over time larger leaks can also cause serious structural defects or issues such as subsidence.
- Leaks also reduce the water available for practical use. They put extra pressure on current resources which may mean new ones have to be sourced which comes at a cost to ratepayers.
- We all need to make a concerted effort to conserve this precious resource.

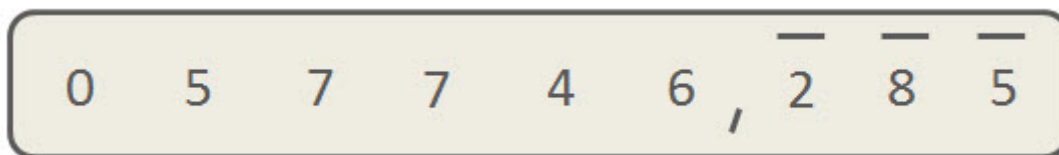
How to confirm if you have a leak

- Pick a time when no water will be used for at least four hours – overnight is a good time.
- Read your water meter, and then read it again after the period of not using any water.
- Make sure you don't use any water during the test. DO NOT turn off the tap on the meter during the test - you need to be able to see if the meter dial still moves while you are not using water. For example, if you do an overnight test, you would read your meter last thing at night before bed, then again the first thing in the morning before using any water.
- Read all the numbers on the face. Note that the last 3 digits with the bars over the top are after the decimal place which is indicated by a comma.
- If the meter numbers are higher, this shows water is being used and it is likely you have a leak.
- To find the size of the leak subtract the old reading from the new reading.



An example of the meter face and dial

eg, the example below shows that about 0.025m³ (or 25 litres) of water were used during the night. This indicates a leak.



Dial Reading at 10.00 pm at night



Dial Reading at 7.00 am the next morning

How to check for obvious leaks

- Look for dripping taps.
- Look behind your dishwasher and washing machine for any signs of water.
- Check your toilet cisterns. Put a few drops of food colouring in the cistern. If colour ends up in the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak.
- See if the hot water cylinder expansion relief valve is letting water drip into the gully trap.
- In dry weather, look for damp patches in the garden, lawn or driveway.
- Listen for running water inside your home when no taps, hoses or showers are turned on.

What if I can't find any leaks?

If your meter dial is moving and no water has been used, you may need to call a registered plumber to check further.

Need further assistance?

Please contact Council on 03 520 7400 or at mdc@Marlborough.govt.nz