



Calculate Your Water Use – Pledge to Reduce by 10–20%

You know that you want to reduce your water use, but first you have to know how much you are currently using, and how to gauge your daily, seasonal, and long-term usage.

Locate and read your water meter. By reading your meter at the beginning and the end of the day, you can compare the two totals to figure out how much water your family used in one day. You can also repeat this process for longer periods of time. Meter readings can be an important tool to use to check for leaks. To more accurately estimate what you use from season to season and year to year, keep a household water usage log and take readings regularly.

TIPS FOR FINDING AND READING YOUR WATER METER:

Step 1: Locate Your Meter

All customers within the City of Chanhassen have their water use measured by a meter. Your water meter is generally located near your water heater in the basement or utility room of your home.



Step 2: Read Your Water Meter

Chanhassen's residential water meters are based on an easy-to-use gallons formula with a decimal point (tenths of gallon) place on the far right side of the meter. Most importantly, on the meter is the red "leak detector dial." This can help identify water leaks within the home. Simply observe this dial for several seconds at a time when no water is being used in the home. If the red indicator spins, you most likely have a leaking toilet or faucet. Other sources of wasted water are malfunctioning water softeners, whole house humidifiers, and outside spigots.

All City of Chanhassen domestic meters measure water in units of gallons. Charges for the amount of water consumed are based on the number of gallons you use during a quarterly billing period.

For more information on water usage, and how to conserve, visit the [Metropolitan Council Water Conservation Toolbox](#)

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Once you have calculated your water use, make a pledge with others in your household to reduce your usage by 10% or more. Post your goal around the house as a daily reminder.

Here are a few other quick tips you can put in practice immediately to get you on the road to making your water conservation goal:

- **Don't let the water run while hand-washing, shaving, washing dishes, or similar activities.** For example, while washing hands: wet hands, turn off the water to soap and lather, and turn the faucet back on to rinse.
- **Put a displacement device in your toilet tank.** Older toilets can use 3 – 7 gallons per flush. Do not use a brick, as it may start to dissolve and cause plumbing issues. A plastic container filled with water is a good alternative.
- **Irrigate your lawn and landscaping less often.** Once established, most lawns and landscaping can survive a minimum of 4 days without moisture. This also helps your lawn and plants develop a stronger, more drought-tolerant root system. Lawns and landscaping need only about 1" of water per week.

You may also estimate your usage based on individual everyday tasks, like hand-washing, bathing, and appliance usage. There are a number of websites that help you calculate these usages. Here are a few you may find helpful:

- www.stpete.org/water/calculate_your_water_ways.asp
- www.h2oconserve.org/home.php?pd=index
- <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/sq3.html>

Tip: Knowing how to read your water bill can be an important tool in water conservation. You can monitor your household usage by looking up previous bills through the City's On-Line Bill-Pay system, or by keeping paper copies of bills received by mail. For more information on how to read your utility bill, click HERE.

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**Adjust your system
to run 90% of your
full cycle time.**

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