

Key points about the Council water supply.

1. Water is a finite resource.

- In New Zealand, we're surrounded by water. It's easy to think of it as a free resource that will never run out. But that just isn't the case. Increasingly, towns and cities throughout New Zealand are facing water shortages.
- If you're on Council supply, it's easy to take water for granted. But it's no easy task to extract it from a source, treat, and deliver it to you the customer. And it's expensive, too. Costs for water treatment and supply, to meet resource consent requirements and public health standards are considerable.
- The good news is that reducing your demand for water can be simple. Something as basic as fixing a leaky tap can make a difference.

2. Accepted allocation of water.

- In simple terms, the annual allowance is based on a four person household with a water consumption of 200 litres per person per day. This is the volume of water deemed to be an "ordinary" domestic supply on which the targeted uniform rate showing on your rates assessment is based.

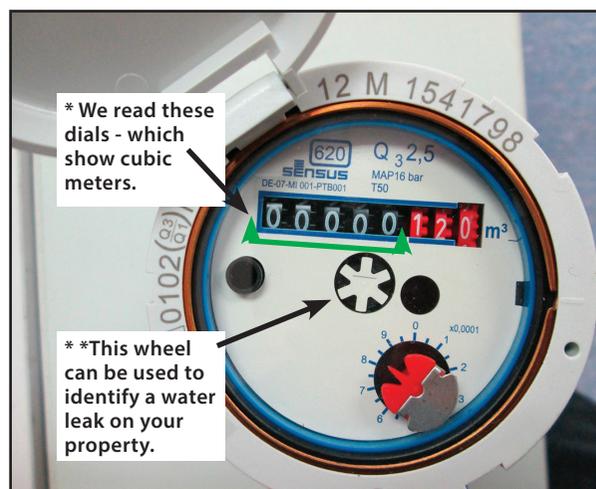
3. Water costs money. Your money.

- By using your water meter to identify any water wastage you will save yourself money and do your bit for water conservation.

How to find and read your water meter.

The meter tap, or toby, shuts off water to the whole of your property. It's a good idea to know where your meter taps are before an emergency strikes. It is each property owners responsibility to ensure the metre and box are kept visible at all times.

Open the lid, locate the Toby Tap which supplies water to your property, and you should see the meter next to this.



Most meters have a display panel of both black and red dials. The black dials show cubic metres, and ***we only read** these black dials when we take your water meter reading.

Quick Tip

If you don't live in the property and only use it as a holiday bach, why not turn off the water toby when you leave? It may save you money and will ensure any lurking water leaks won't cause damage while you're not there.

Tip

1,000 litres = 1m³ (cubic metre)

Example of a water meter display panel.



***Only read** these black dials when taking a reading.

- Once the fifth black digit turns over you have used one unit which is 1m³ of water (or 1,000 litres). In the above example this is the '6' in 1476.
- When the fourth digit represented by the '7' in 1476 example turns over is 10m³ of water use.
- When the third digit represented by the '4' in 1476 example turns over is 100m³ of water use; and
- When the second digit represented by the '1' in 1476 example turns over is 1,000m³ of water use.

How to use your water meter to check for a leak.

****** The round wheel located in the centre of your water meter can be used to identify a possible water leak on your property.

Turn off all water using appliances and devices in your house and on your property (ie dishwasher, washing machine, ensure hot water cylinder is full).

Wait for 10 - 15 minutes. If the round wheel continues to rotate, then there could be a water leak on your property. If you are unsure and need to speak with one of our water services staff please give us a call.

Council has a reporting system in place 24 hours a day, seven days a week to report water leaks or wastage. Phone 0800 932 4357.

Call us if you discover or suspect a leak on the road side, Council land or inside your meter box.

Free phone 0800 932 4357

Email: waitomodc@waitomo.govt.nz

Water conservation quick tips.

Washing machines

An efficient top-loading washing machine might use 75 litres of water per wash; an inefficient one, 200 litres. Front-loaders use half to two-thirds of this. Choose the correct water level setting for the load, but bear in mind that a half-load setting uses more than half the amount of water. Do full loads of washing when possible.

Reduce Water Flow

Water flow is the rate water comes out of your taps and shower heads. You don't need your shower head to deliver more than nine litres of water a minute, or your taps six litres a minute, yet some use three times that much.

By switching to water-efficient taps and shower heads, or installing water restrictors, you can save significant amounts of water.

Fix leaking taps and toilets

A tap that drips once every second wastes 1,000 litres of water a year, and a leaking toilet cistern can waste as much as 15,000 litres a year. Both are easy to fix by replacing the washer. You can probably do this yourself or if you are unsure consult a registered plumber.

Promote water conservation through your business

Teach water awareness. Many companies have posted signs throughout their facilities, which help to create an awareness of water conservation among the employees, customers and visitors. This can assist in making people more aware about their water use, and water consumption usually decreases.



Pools

Refilling of swimming and spa pools uses a large volume of water at a time when the river is at its lowest. By treating the water in your swimming pool, you will maximise its use and minimise health risks.

- To avoid water borne health risks it is vital that you add chlorine in the right dose to pool water. Chlorine levels can be easily maintained in the ideal range of 1 to 3 parts per million by using inexpensive testers or pool test kits. These kits will also tell you the acidity (or alkalinity (pH)) of your pool and enable you to keep this around 7.5.
- Chlorinating pool water will keep it cleaner for longer and reduce the need and frequency of refilling, as will a filter system.
- Always cover swimming and spa pools when not in use. A pool cover will greatly reduce the amount of chemicals you need to add to the water, and can also minimise loss of water through evaporation by up to 90%.
- Encouraging swimmers to keep splashing to a minimum and keep as much water inside the pool as possible to reduce the need for top-ups.
- To avoid the cost and effort associated with maintaining a pool at home, consider visiting the Te Kuiti Swimming Pool which is open during the summer season and provides a safe and fun swimming environment.
- Did you know a swimming pool cover can cut evaporation by as much as 90%, reducing the need for top-ups in the dry summer season.
- To check for swimming pool leaks use a pencil to mark the water level at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later to see if it's gone down.

Conserve water over Summer

During the hot summer months, water supplies are at their lowest and water use is at its peak. Small changes made in terms of how we use water in the home and at work will make a big difference. Water use including garden watering, washing the car and filling a swimming pool, puts pressure on Councils water systems when supplies are at their lowest.

Your support in conserving water use will help to prevent the need for any restrictions being placed on the supply. By using water responsibly there will be plenty of water available for all.

Creating a better future with vibrant communities and thriving business.

Water Meters

Your guide to reading your water meter, checking for water leaks and saving money on your water bill.




Waitomo
District Council

www.waitomo.govt.nz