

In the Pipeline

January 2017

Water Leaks

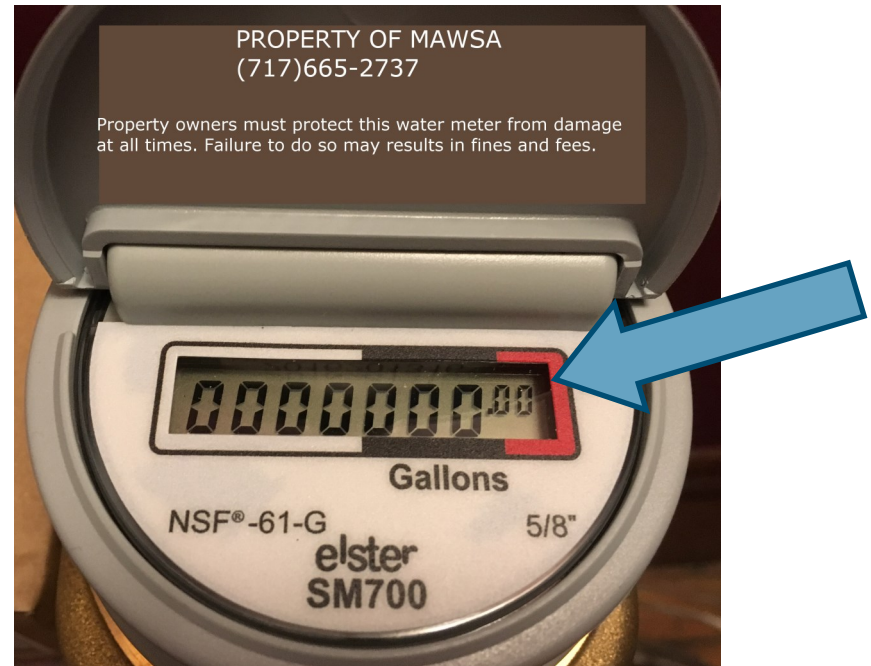
Water leaks are a common event. While some leaks such as a drippy faucet can be easy to spot, others are not so easy. Not only is it a waste of a valuable resource, but it can become a costly event.

Checking your water meter is a great way to keep tabs on your water use. Reading your meter once a day, at the same time each day, is the best way to pin down how much your household uses on a day-to-day basis.

Residential homes are fitted with water meters that have a plastic lid with a thumb tab. Lifting the tab will reveal a digital meter reading, much like a digital watch, or calculator. When water is passing through the meter, the decimal point (.) and/or last digits on the screen will flash. (See image to the right.)

For example, if your meter readings starts at 13926 on Monday, and reads 14046 on Tuesday, 120 gallons have passed through the meter between readings.

The Environmental Protection Agency suggests that the average American uses 100 gallons per person, per day.



Process of Elimination to Find Leaks

When customers have been contacted regarding high water use, the top two causes are typically toilets and water softeners. Toilets can be tested by placing food coloring in the fill tank overnight. If any of the coloring makes its way into the bowl, the seal is failing. Additionally, shutting off the service valve to the toilet should not lower the water level in the bowl if it is left off for an extended period.

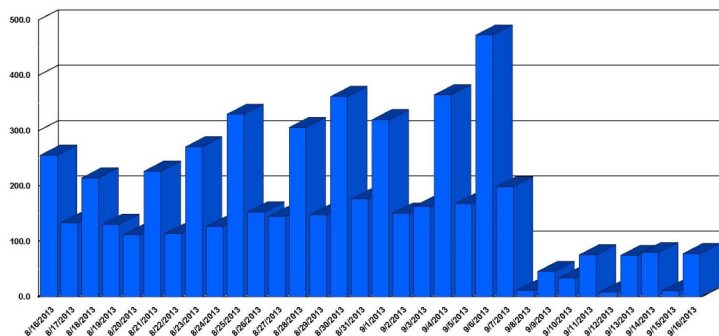
Water softeners can be bypassed, and daily meter readings from the bypass period can be compared against the meter readings taken while the softener was in operation.

Remember, metered water is billed water.



Daily Usage - Gallons

Name [REDACTED] Address [REDACTED]



Daily Usage Graphs

A water use graph may be used to see if a change in habits has affected water consumption. For this customer, a troublesome toilet was repaired. Just by replacing a failing valve instead of reminding guests to “jiggle the handle” reduced this customer’s average daily water use from almost 220 gallons per day to less than 50 gallons per day. That is a savings of about 170 gallons per day (nearly 5,000 gallons per month).

If your household uses more than 100 gallons per person per day, or more than the average household (3,565 gallons per month), it may be time to evaluate water use habits and/or survey the property for potential leaks.

Water saving tips and tools may be found on our web site at mawsa.org under the Customer Service tab, and under the Customer Education tab.

New Regulations Regarding Rental Units

The Borough of Manheim, which is serviced by MAWSA for water and wastewater (sewer) services, issued a notice in late fall of 2016 reminding property owners of rental units of Chapter 166 in the Borough Code of Ordinances.

Part of the notice indicates that delinquent water/sewer accounts for rental units may hinder the ability to obtain a rental license, and may subject the property owner to Borough fines.

Please be advised that MAWSA intends to fully comply and cooperate with the needs of our service area municipalities for enforcement of Ordinances, Rules and Regulations, and any other laws, to the fullest extent necessary.

Winter Weather Reminders

Even though we have enjoyed the blessings of little snow and record level high temps for the winter season, it is best to prepare while the going is good, before the going gets tough.

Make sure to winterize exterior faucets, which can freeze and burst. Consider draining and detaching exterior hoses and purchasing a faucet protector. If there are exposed pipes, insulate them. Be sure to keep your water meter protected from the cold as well. Any one of these freezing and bursting could mean expensive home repairs.

Should we actually have a snow this winter, be sure to clear away snow from fire hydrants for access by emergency persons.

