

Water Usage & CONSERVATION



Water Use BASICS

Water usage is indicated on your water/sewer bill in thousands of gallons. Your usage is recorded by your water meter, which is read daily by the automated reading system. More specific information regarding your meter, typical water usage rates, and water conservation tips are included for your information. However, if you have any additional questions, please call us and ask.



Water METERS

A water meter is installed in your home or business, for billing purposes, to measure the amount of water being used. These meters are owned and maintained by the Lake County Department of Public Works. The accuracy of the meter is guaranteed by the manufacturer when it is purchased by our Department.

Today's water meters are extremely accurate. The motion of the measuring element inside the meter, called a nutating disc, is transmitted by a magnetic drive to the meter register, which records the flow in gallons.



Sign up for the Water Meter CUSTOMER PORTAL

Have you signed up for our new Water Meter Customer Portal? It allows you to monitor how much water you're using, receive alerts regarding your water usage, and much more!

To access the water portal, you must register for an account. Make sure you have a copy of your water bill available, as you need to provide your 16-digit customer account number (entered with no dashes) and meter number.

Visit our website to sign up!
WWW.LAKECOUNTYIL.GOV/PUBLICWORKS

Water USAGE

This table lists the average daily water usage per family, based on information supplied by the American Water Works Association, Badger Water Meter Company, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. Your actual usage may vary from this average usage, especially during summer months.



Family Size	Gallons / Day	Gallons / Week	Gallons / Month
1	75-100	525-700	2,250-3,000
2	150-200	1,050-1,400	4,500-6,000
3	225-300	1,575-2,100	6,750-9,000
4	300-400	2,100-2,800	9,000-12,000
5	375-500	2,625-3,500	11,250-15,000
6	450-600	3,150-4,200	13,500-18,000
7	525-700	3,675-4,900	15,750-21,000
8	600-800	4,200-5,600	18,000-24,000

Estimating Your USAGE



Our Water Meter Customer Portal makes it easy to monitor your water usage. However, if you are outside of Lake County Public Works jurisdiction or do not have access to the internet, you can still estimate your monthly usage.

1. Take a meter reading at the same time every day.
2. Subtract the previous day's reading from the current day's reading. The difference is your daily usage.
3. The monitoring period should be a minimum of one to two weeks.
4. Average the values you have gathered to calculate your water usage.

Water devices within your home or business use water at different rates. Water usage rates for many typical fixtures and appliances are listed below.

- Toilet : Some toilets can use 3.5 to 6 gallons of water per flush!
- Shower: 25 to 50 gallons per shower calculated at five gallons per minute (GPM).
- Sink Faucet: 1-3 gallons per minute
- Dishwasher: 20 gallons per run

Outside Water USE



From May 15 to September 15 of each year, County ordinance prohibits the use of water for outside and landscaping purposes between the hours of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. In addition, outside water use is restricted to certain days of the week. Even numbered addresses can use outside water on even numbered days, and odd numbered addresses on odd days. Additional restrictions may be imposed in the event of severe and/or prolonged weather conditions, such as a drought.

You may be surprised at the amount of water some of these items use.

- Washing Machine: 30-60 gallons per full cycle
- Lawn Sprinkling: 600 gallons per hour
- Small Leak: 20-170 gallons per day
- Large Leak: 1,000 gallons or more per day

Water CONSERVATION

Water is yours for the taking, 24 hours a day. All you have to do is turn on the faucet. But water is a valuable resource that should not be wasted. Here are some tips on water conservation that you can practice at home or work:



Fix any faucet, toilet, and showerhead leaks. A slow drip can waste 15 TO 20 gallons a day. Fix it and save 6,000 gallons a year!

Use the dishwasher and washing machine only with FULL LOADS.



DON'T let the water run while brushing your teeth or shaving.



Take showers rather than baths, and KEEP THEM SHORT.



DON'T use the toilet as a trash can... Consider replacing older high-volume fixtures with WaterSense or low-flow versions.



Water the lawn in early morning or evening to minimize EVAPORATION.



USE A TIMER when watering the lawn.

Don't run the tap to get cold water. Instead keep a bottle in THE REFRIGERATOR.



Install LOW FLOW faucets and showerheads.

Leak DETECTION



For leak detection, carefully turn everything off, so no water is being used anywhere in the house. Then, check the LCD display of the water meter. It will toggle between four screens, showing total consumption, billable consumption, current flow, and meter model information.

If the flow is shown as 0.0 over a 10-15 minute period, congratulations! You have a relatively water-tight home. If it does show usage, or you see the leak indicator (faucet dripping), start checking your toilets, faucets, and hose connections for leaking water. Then repeat this test.



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