

Water Services Information Booklet



WAMCO

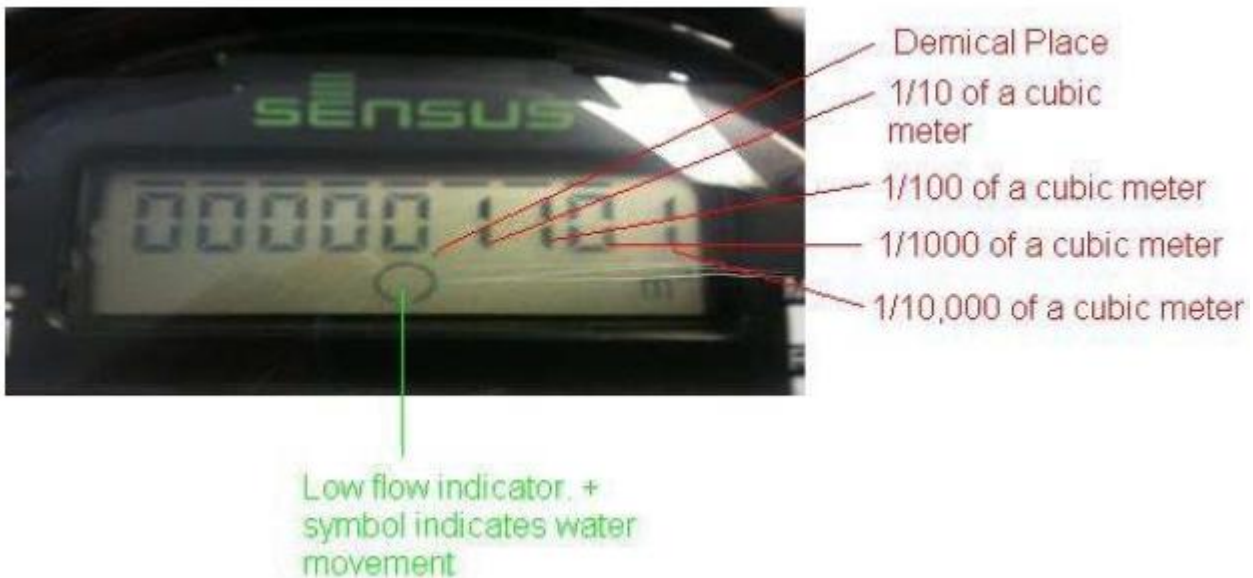

SENSUS
The Measure of the Future

Essa Township Water Meter Replacement Process

The Township of Essa will replace a defective water meter at no cost on the property. Property owners to advise the Township Staff to schedule a Wamco representative to investigate the request. The meter will be removed and tested at a Wamco facility at the property owner's request (deposit may be required). If the meter is found to be defective at no fault to the owner, deposit will be refunded and replacement will be completed at no cost to the property owner. If the meter is not defective, then the property owner will cover all costs as per By-Law 2021-07.

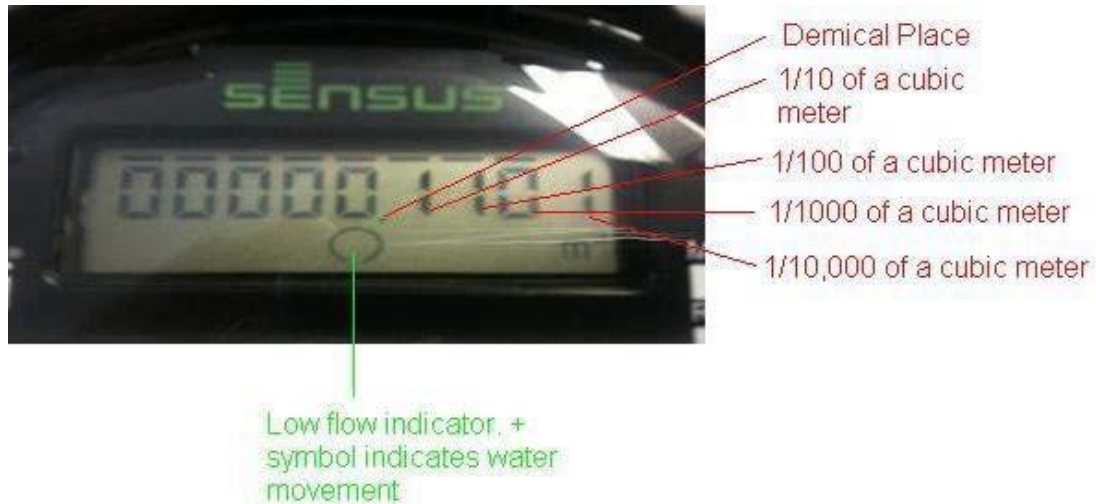
The Township **highly** recommends the following steps before scheduling a meter replacement investigation:

- Check the meter read digits and compare it to the most recent water bill. If the read is close to the read on your bill, then your meter is still in good working condition.
- Check the meter low flow indicator + symbol when everything at the house is turned off. You likely do have a leak if the low flow indicator + symbol appears (depends on the Sensus water meter model)



How to Read Your Meter

Take a reading at a set time during the day, and another reading the same time on the following day. The difference between the two readings is the volume of water you used over that 24 hour period. Numbers left of the decimal place are **full cubic meters**.



Use Your Meter To Find Leaks

If you suspect you have a leak, turn off everything in the house that might be using water and look at your meter. If the low flow indicator is showing a + that means water is still flowing through your pipes and you likely do have a leak. The most common source of leaks is the toilet flapper valve, a dripping tap, or the feed to a washing machine.

Water Meters & Water Efficiency

According to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), metered households in Canada use 39% less water than non-metered households.

Why the big difference? People living in non-metered homes are usually charged a flat rate for water, so there is no financial incentive for these homeowners to fix leaks, install water efficient appliances, or practice simple water conservation tips.

Measuring household water use and charging homeowners for the volume they actually use makes sense. It's no different than your electricity bill – you pay for the energy you use, and if you want to lower your bill, you take steps to use less energy.

Water meters also provide a more equitable means of charging for water. If you are already a low water user, you will pay less than those who use more. Ultimately, when a community reduces water use, it benefits everyone by preserving the resource and deferring the investment in water supply infrastructure.



Conserving Water

Property owners may wish to take steps to reduce their water use. This booklet contains some helpful indoor and outdoor water conservation tips. Use them to save water and to save money.

Indoor Water Conservation

There are two ways to save water: 1) Change your behavior; and 2) Change or modify appliances that use water. Changing your behavior is easy. This includes turning off the tap when you brush your teeth, not allowing taps to drip, and taking shorter showers. This will save a moderate amount of water.

When it comes to indoor water conservation, the biggest savings are achieved through water efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances. With low-flow toilets and shower heads, your habits remain the same, but the water savings are automatic.

EXAMPLE: Front loading washing machines. It might be difficult to reduce the amount of laundry you do, but new front-loading machines use a fraction of the water that the old top-loaders use. You do the same amount of laundry but use less water to do it.



EXAMPLE: Low-flow & Dual flush toilets. Toilet flushing can account for as much as 50% of your indoor water use. Low-flow toilets use about 6 liters per flush. Dual flush toilets have an extra flush button that uses only 3 liters for liquid flushes. Low flow showerheads also save water and energy.

Outdoor Water Conservation

Most of the water used outdoors is used on lawns. This makes it easy to save water, because the use is all concentrated in one place.

In "Household Guide to Water Efficiency," CMHC reports that almost half the water we put on our lawns is wasted - lost to runoff and evaporation.

Promoting a healthy root system is the best way to conserve the water you use to feed your lawn. Get a spade and cut out a slice of grass. If the roots are shorter than three inches you might be watering too much.

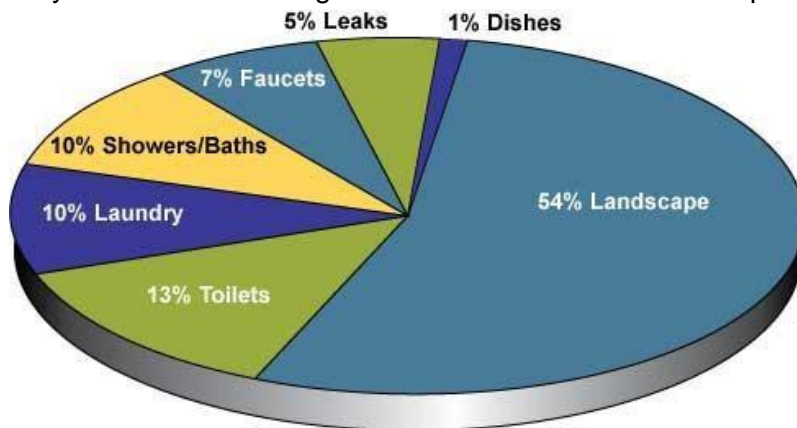
Healthy grass roots = less water

- Water long and deep as opposed to short, frequent bursts.
- Avoid high nitrogen fertilizers that promote short-term growth.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They contain enough nitrogen to make fertilization unnecessary.



Water use in the average home

Lawn watering can account for more than half of your water use during summer months. Water consumption of this kind is almost



entirely discretionary, and many people water their lawns more than is necessary. Inside the home, the biggest water users are the toilet, the bathtub, the dishwasher, and the washing machine. Surprisingly only about 2% of your water use is for drinking.

For further information on water conservation, please see the following:

CMHC: <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/su/waco/index.cfm>

Environment Canada: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/WATER/>

Ontario: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/water/>

General: <http://www.waterbucket.ca/>