

Water & Utility

Tips from the Town



Water Conservation Levels



The Town of High River's Water Conservation Bylaw (4212/2008) contains guidelines for residents to reduce excess water use in their homes.

Once the Town reaches Water Conservation Level 2 or 3, lawn watering is only permitted

Tips for conserving water indoors

Toilets

Install low flow or dual flush toilets. Check for leaks by putting food coloring in your toilet tank - If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month. If your toilet flapper doesn't close after flushing, replace it. You can also retrofit your toilet with a toilet displacement device and reduce flushing by putting tissues and other items in the garbage.

Kitchen/sinks

Install aerators on kitchen and bathroom faucets and teach your children to turn off faucets tightly after each use. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gallons a month. For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle. This will cut

between 5-10 a.m. and 7-11 p.m. on specific days for each area of town.

Public announcements will be made to inform residents when they are required to follow the restrictions. **Watering days are:**

- SW – Monday & Thursday
- SE – Tuesday & Friday
- NW/NE – Wednesday & Saturday

Residents should monitor their water bills for unusually high usage. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover

leaks. See the attached, "Understanding your water meter, and checking for leaks."

For more information please visit the Town's website at www.highriver.ca and click on the Residents then Water Conservation menu.

down on the number of glasses to wash. Soak pans overnight, don't run the water and when washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water. Compost kitchen wastes instead of using garbage disposals.

Shower

Reduce your shower time or turn off the water when washing your hair or shaving. Brush your teeth and wash your face in the shower to save time and water. Replace shower heads with a water saving model. If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model.

Laundry

Only run washing machines and dishwashers when they're full and, if you're looking to buy a new set, consider purchasing a high-efficiency front loading machine.

Use your water meter for measurable savings

Water meters are tools used by utilities to accurately measure consumption for billing purposes, but can also be an empowering tool for consumers to manage usage and thereby part of their utility bills.

Being mindful of your household's water consumption can provide valuable insight into fine tuning usage patterns that will help you save both water and money.

Two great reasons to locate and read your water meter

- 1 Monitoring how much water is used in your household - Tracking usage can contribute to overall sustainability, help with budgeting, and realizing your home's water conservation goals.
- 2 Identifying wasteful and costly water leaks - Learning how your meter works, and using it to monitor for leaks in and around your property, is a valuable tool in identifying and correcting some otherwise difficult to detect plumbing issues. (see back page).

Sign-up today to receive electronic bills & notices

The Town of High River is encouraging residents and businesses to sign-up to receive their municipal bills and notices electronically through email.

The program includes: **Assessment notices, Tax notices, and Utility Bills** (water, sewer, recycling and garbage).

Sign up at highriver.ca/utility-accounts



Tips for conserving water outdoors

Watering lawns and gardens

Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation and only water lawns 2-3 times per week, never water when it's not needed.

Yard design

Plant low-growing ground cover, drought tolerant vegetation, flat rocks or decorative gravel (take out the grass).

Monitor sprinklers

Use a sprinkler timer and rain gauge to avoid over-watering and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street. Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons a minute.

Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the sprinkler heads in good shape. Adjust your watering

schedule each month to match seasonal weather conditions and landscape requirements.

Collect rain

Use a rain barrel or other large container to capture rain water to use later and use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.

Use mulch

Use mulch around trees, shrubs and gardens and plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.

Check moisture levels

Check the root zone of your lawn or garden for moisture before watering using a spade or trowel. If it's still moist two inches under the soil surface, you still have enough water.

Aerate lawns

Aerate your lawn at least once a year so water can reach the roots rather than run off the surface.

Use your water meter to check for leaks

In addition to checking for the alarm on the LCD of the meter, you can follow these three easy steps to help determine if you have a water leak:

1. Last thing at night; turn off all taps and water consuming devices in and around the property.
2. Record the meter reading by writing down all the numbers displayed on your meter. Record every number from left to right exactly (including all zeros at the beginning and at the end).
3. First thing in the morning record your meter reading again before using any water (including flushing the toilet).

Use the table to record your readings:

Date	Night Reading	Morning Reading

Have the numbers changed?

If they have not, congratulations you are seemingly leak free. Repeat this test on a regular basis or anytime you might suspect a water leakage issue.

If the numbers have changed, then this test indicates that there may be a leaky fixture or sprinkler on your property and further investigation is required. The most likely culprits are toilets, as it is believed that one in four toilets is silently leaking, wasting 25-30 bathtubs of water each month.

Leaky toilet test

Check your toilets every 6 months by doing the following:

DROP: Put several drops of food colouring in the toilet tank and wait 15 minutes.

OBSERVE: Look into the toilet's bowl. If the water in the toilet bowl changes colour, you have a leak.

REPAIR: The toilet flapper is the most likely suspect. Have it repaired or replaced (contact a plumber).

SAVE: Save water, Save costs, feel great about both!

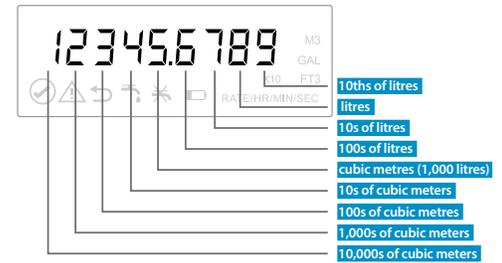
METERCOR

FOR MORE CONSERVATION TIPS, VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.METERCOR.COM

Meter reading usage and graphics provided by Metercor

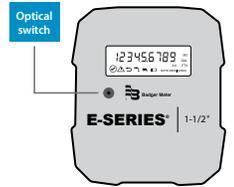
Locating and reading your meter

In many Canadian homes, the water meter is located in the basement. They are generally found near the floor where the main water line enters the home and downstream from the home's main shut-off valve. The meter measures and displays consumption on the digital register. By opening the cover, you will activate the display showing consumption in cubic meters. Most utilities bill to the cubic meter, which is the unit directly to the left of the decimal.



The meter's display and alarms

The meter's display illuminates when the register cover is opened. After a period of time, the display will revert to sleep mode. You can alternate the display between total flow and rate of flow mode by touching the optical display switch or by closing and opening the meter's lid. The optical switch is located just below the LCD on the left side of the register's face.



The meter has icons and alarms to reflect the flow patterns it records. The most important are:

-  Meter is operating normally and no plumbing issues detected.
-  Indicates there has been reverse flow through the meter at some point. The alarm automatically clears after 35 days if the condition has not recurred.
-  Indicates that there has been water usage every 15 minutes for the past 24 hours, possibly indicating a leak. Alarm clears automatically when a 15-minute no-flow interval occurs.