

# Water Audit

**W**ater Accounts are issued within days following the reading of the water meter on your property and occur on a 90 day cycle.

On the reverse side of your account you will see information relating to your meter including current meter readings, water usage for the period, and a breakdown of charges which includes:

- **Water Usage** - a charge based on the amount of metered water used between each water meter reading period, and
- **Water & Sewer Availability** - a charge issued to all properties and may be based on the size of your meter. Vacant land with services available also incur this charge.

Sometimes it can be hard to imagine how you could have possibly used that amount of water so we have put together a simple water audit table to help you make an assessment.

The table simply requires filling in the relevant applicable information then calculating your daily or weekly water usage. By doing this exercise you will then have a very good idea of where and how much water can be used. You can then determine where there is potential to save water and consequently save money.

If you have a higher than usual water usage amount you may have a leak on the property. An easy and regular check of your meter will reveal water leaks. Read on to see how.



**For further information on tips and ideas on how you can use water more wisely please visit our website [www.shoalwater.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shoalwater.nsw.gov.au)**

## How to check for leaks

**To help you avoid unnecessary water usage charges we have created a simple three-step test that only takes a few minutes to complete.**

### Step 1

Find your water meter and record the reading (all the digits). Make sure you leave the meter turned on and do not use any water afterwards for a few hours. Just before bed is a good time.

### Step 2

Read the meter again a few hours later (or in the morning) making sure you haven't used any water during the test period.

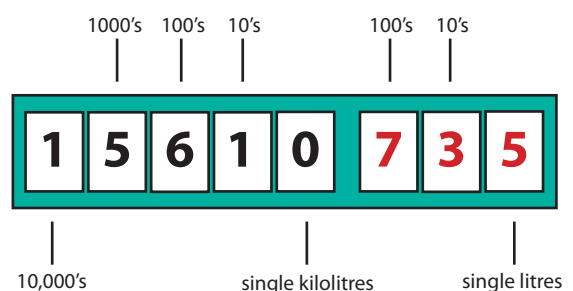
### Step 3

Compare the two sets of numbers. If they are exactly the same there are no leaks. If they are different, subtract the first reading from the second and the difference will tell you how bad the leak is.

## How to Read Your Water Meter

In reading your meter:

- The red numbers indicate single litres
- Shoalhaven Water read the black digits only and charge per kilolitre used
- Usage is calculated by subtracting the previous reading from the current reading



*1000 litres is equal to 1 kilolitre*

ACTIVITY		LITRES USED per ACTIVITY	TIMES per DAY	TIMES per WEEK	LITRES USED WEEKLY
<b>AVERAGE INDOOR WATER USE</b>					
Washing Dishes	By hand (one meal)	20	x	x	=
	Old dishwasher (one cycle)	45	x	x	=
	New dishwasher (one cycle)	25	x	x	=
Washing Clothes	Handwashing (per wash)	40	x	x	=
	Top Loading (full load)	180	x	x	=
	Front Loading (full load)	120	x	x	=
Shower	5 minute ordinary shower rose	100	x	x	=
	5 minute water-efficient shower rose	45	x	x	=
Bath	Full	170	x	x	=
	Half	85	x	x	=
Brushing Teeth	Tap turned on	5	x	x	=
	Tap turned off	0.5	x	x	=
Toilet	Old toilet - single flush	12	x	x	=
	Water efficient toilet - full flush	6	x	x	=
	Water efficient toilet - half flush	3	x	x	=

**TYPICAL INDOOR WATER USE PER WEEK =**

<b>AVERAGE OUTDOOR WATER USE</b>					
Watering Garden	Small sprinkler (one hour)	600	x	x	=
	Medium Sprinkler (one hour)	1000	x	x	=
	Large Sprinkler (one hour)	1500	x	x	=
	Hosing	1000	x	x	=
Washing Car	With hose and bucket	200	x	x	=
Topping up Pool	Hose (one hour)	200	x	x	=

**TYPICAL OUTDOOR WATER USE PER WEEK =**

**OVERALL WATER USE PER WEEK (indoor + outdoor) =**

**Please note:** The litres indicated per activity are a guide only, each household and appliance use a different amount of water. For an accurate measure it is recommended you read your own water meter for each activity undertaken.