



WATER CONSERVATION AND METER READING TIPS

HOW TO CONSERVE WATER

Indoors

- **Never put water down the drain** when there may be another use for it, such as for cleaning, or for watering a potted plant or plants in your garden.
- **Repair dripping faucets** by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, the accumulated waste will be 2,700 gallons per year.
- **Take shorter showers.** Replace your showerhead with a low-flow version.
- **Don't let water run** while shaving, washing your face, or brushing your teeth. If you need hot water, heat it up on the stove, or save the cold water that first comes out of the tap in a pan.
- **Operate dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded,** and make sure to properly set the water level for the size of load.
- **When washing dishes by hand,** fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slowly moving stream from the faucet.
- **Store drinking water in the refrigerator** rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water.
- **Kitchen sink disposals require lots of water** to operate properly. Instead of using a garbage disposal, start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing of food waste.

Outdoors

- **Don't overwater your lawn.** As a general rule, lawns only need watering every 5-7 days in summer and every 10-14 days in winter. A hearty rain eliminates the need for watering for as long as 2 weeks. Water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces losses from evaporation.
- **Raise the lawn mower blade to at least 3 inches.** A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
- **Mulch to retain moisture** in the soil. Mulching also helps to control weeds that compete with plants for water.
- **Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalk.** Use a broom to clean off leaves and other debris.

Cuesta La Honda Guild

- **Do not leave sprinklers or hoses unattended.** Your garden hoses can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours, so don't leave the sprinkler running all day. Use a timer to remind yourself to turn it off.
 - **Consider using a commercial car wash** that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass to do so.
 - **Avoid the installation of ornamental water features** (such as fountains) **unless the water is recycled.**
 - **Use plants in your yard that require little water.** For a list of native plants suitable for growing in La Honda, consult:
 - Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties (<http://smsf-mastergardeners.ucanr.edu/>)
 - California Native Plant Society (<http://www.cnps.org>)
 - San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (<http://sanmateorcd.org/>)
 - local nurseries.
- Other useful websites include:
- The EPA's Watersense site: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>

PLEASE FIX LEAKS PROMPTLY

- A **slow drip** that produces 1 gallon per hour produces 720 gallons per month.
- **Leaking toilets** can use several hundreds of gallons a month. To test your toilet put a few drops of food coloring in your tank. If the color appears in the bowl, there's a leak. Replace flapper and other parts until leak stops.
- **Please look around your house for damp spots on the ground where a pipe might be leaking.** If you see a damp spot in the roadways or on the ground up to and including your meter box, call 1-866-473-2573. If you see a damp spot after the meter box or in your yard, most likely it is your service line and you may need a plumber.
- **Consider turning off home reverse osmosis filters or reducing their use:** Reverse osmosis filters produce only 1 gallon of clean water for every 10 gallons processed. That means 9 gallons go to your septic tank. Please consider turning off a reverse osmosis filter – or using it sparingly.

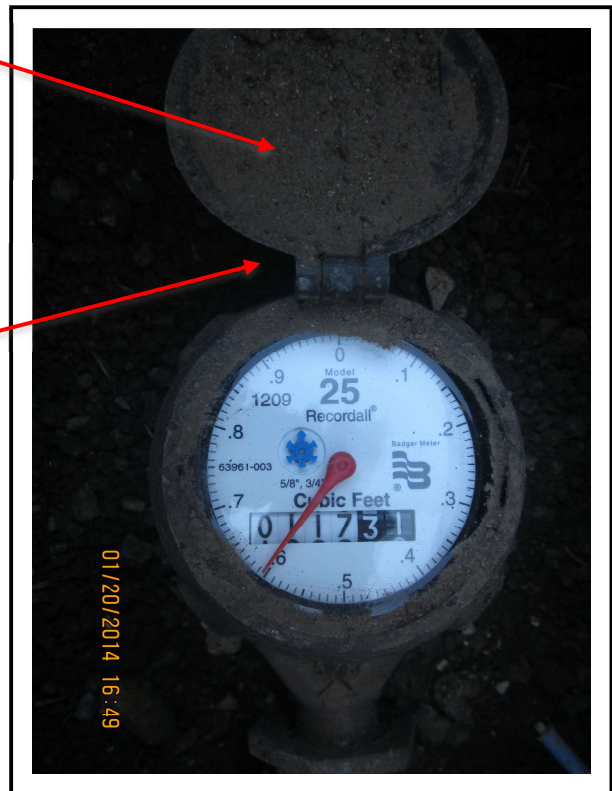
HOW MUCH WATER DO I USE?

- CLHG members may request their water meter reading history from CLHG office at clhgoffice@gmail.com.
- Check your own water meter!

How to check your own water meter:

- There are nine different kinds of meters used in La Honda. The photo shows one type. They all read in cubic feet and all read with one revolution of the "seconds" hand (like an analog clock) equaling one cubic foot or 7.48 gallons
- 1 digit = 1 cubic foot of water = 7.48 gallons
- Find your water meter box, open the lid, and look at the meter. It has 6 digits.
- Write down the number on the meter. Look again in 24 hours and record the new value. To calculate your daily usage, subtract the second reading from the first reading (e.g. 011231 - 011216 = 15 cubic feet of water * 7.48 gallons = 112.2 gallons)
- Some water meters have **a leak indicator**: a small red triangle, blue flower or other indicator.

- If the triangle moves, a water-using appliance is on – or you have a leak!
- If your meter only has a **sweep hand**, choose a time when no water-using appliances are operating and check the sweep hand's position. Wait 30 minutes. The sweep hand should not have moved. If it has moved from perhaps .6 to .7, you have a leak of about 0.1 cubic feet or 1.5 gallons per hour -- a steady drip.
- If you need assistance reading or finding your meter, please contact the office.



How much water does the average person use at home per day?

<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/qa-home-percapita.html>

Bath	A full tub is about 36 gallons.
Shower	2 gallons per minute. Old showerheads use as much as 5 gallons per minute.
Teeth brushing	<1 gallon, especially if water is turned off while brushing. Newer bath faucets use about 1 gallon per minute, whereas older models use over 2 gallons.
Hands/face washing	1 gallon
Face/leg shaving	1 gallon
Dishwasher	4 to 10 gallons/load, depending on efficiency of dishwasher
Dishwashing by hand	20 gallons. Newer kitchen faucets use about 2.2 gallons per minute, whereas older faucets use more.
Clothes washer	25 gallons/load for newer washers. Older models use about 40 gallons per load.
Toilet flush	3 gallons. Almost all new toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush, but many older toilets used about 4 gallons.
Glasses of water drunk	8 oz. per glass
Outdoor watering	5 to 10 gallons per minute