

## USING YOUR WATER METER TO CHECK FOR WATER LEAKS

Locate the water meter; it could be in the basement, a closet, under the stairs or in a meter pit. If you need help in locating your meter contact the Holliston Water Department at 508-429-0603. Water meters have numbers or spinning dials, which record usage. When water is not being used none of the numbers or dials on the meter should move. Most meters also have a small "leak detector" arrow, triangle or star which spins to record the low volume of water use that is common with leaks.

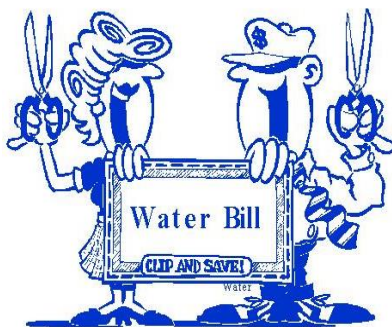
Turn off every water-using item inside and outside the home or building. Remember to shut off your irrigation or sprinkler systems and don't use your icemaker for a while before the test.

Watch the water meter for a few minute or more; if the leak detector dial is moving you may have a leak. In some cases the leak detector dial might move back and forth very slightly - this is usually caused by water pressure fluctuations and is not a sign of a leak. If the leak detectors dial moves forward continually even at a slow rate you have a leak. You may also want to check the main meter reading (numbers) at a set time, and then come back an hour later to check the reading - ensuring that no water has been turned on during the hour. If the meter reading has increased, there is a leak.

If the dial or the numbers on the meter are moving that means water is going through the meter. You have something in the house or outside that is using water, this is the only way the water meter will register usage. Constant drips in faucets, showers, garden hoses, jiggling the handle of the toilet are all leaks and will add up if ignored.

To determine where the leak is you will need to check everything in the house that uses water. It will be easier if you have someone help you as you will need to close valves and then check to see if the dial stops on the meter. Once the dial on the meter stops turning you have found the leak and then need to get it repaired. If the dial slows down but does not stop there may be more than one leak and you will need to continue the process.

If you need help with repairs or in locating the leak, call a plumber.



### A FINAL NOTE

Remember, leaks don't go away on their own they only get worse with time. They cause property damage and can become expensive to repair. Take care of leaks as soon as they are identified, it saves water, money, and limits the complications of water damage. If you're going to be gone for an extended period of time you might consider shutting off your main water line. This should reduce the likelihood that a leak will cause damage while you're away.