

## **How to read your water meter and check for leaks:**

1. Turn off ALL water in the house.
2. Run a flash light over the digital display to activate
3. Numbers will alternate between consumption reading and rate of consumption
4. The rate reading should be zeros
5. If there is a reading then water is running thru the meter – a leak somewhere
6. One cubic foot of water equals 7.5 gallons

## **Simple Steps to Big Savings**

Drip. Drip. Drip. The average American household wastes more than 10,000 gallons each year from easy-to-fix water leaks, adding up to more than 1 trillion gallons of water lost annually nationwide. Many of these leaks are do-it-yourself fixes that could cost only a few dollars to address.

The Village of Groton encourages homeowners to find and fix leaks with some easy steps that you can take to help save water in our community now and for future generations.

### **1. Find Leaks**

A good method to check for leaks is to examine your winter water use. If it exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, you probably have leaks. Walk around your home with eyes and ears open to find leaks, and don't forget to check pipes. You can also reveal a silent toilet leak by adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank and waiting 15 minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak. Be sure to flush afterwards so as not to stain the bowl or tank.

### **2. Fix Leaks**

Many times fixing leaks can be done yourself and doesn't have to cost a cent. Both faucets and showerhead connections can be tightened or sealed with a wrench or pipe tape. For leaky toilets, the rubber flapper inside the tank is often the culprit. Over time the flapper decays, but replacing it only costs a few dollars. If you don't feel comfortable with these repairs, a licensed plumber can help. Irrigation systems and outdoor spigots can also be the source of water loss.

### **3. Save Water**

Fixing household leaks not only saves water but can reduce water utility bills by more than 10 percent. Dripping faucets can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year, a showerhead leaking 10 drips per minute about 500 gallons per year, and running toilets 200 gallons or more each day!

One cubic foot of water equals 7.5 gallons

For more information and tips about how to save water visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

### INDOOR CONSERVATION

Estimated water  
monthly savings  
(gallons)

1.	Replace regular shower heads with low-flow shower heads or flow restrictors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-flow shower heads deliver 2.5 gallons of water per minute and are relatively inexpensive.</li> <li>• Old shower heads use 5 to 7 gallon per minute.</li> </ul>	500-800
1.	Taking shorter showers by one to two minutes	700
2.	Taking a bath instead of a shower once a day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 gallon savings for each bath taken versus taking a shower</li> </ul>	600
3.	Install a low-flow toilet that uses 1.6 gallons of water per flush which could save as much as much as 20% in water consumption as compared to an older toilet which uses 3.5 to 5 gallons per flush.	
4.	One person turning the water off when brushing your teeth and then turning the water on to rinse will save three gallon per day.	90
5.	When washing dishes by hand, use a spray device or short blasts instead of letting water run for rinsing.	250-500
6.	If you use just enough dish detergent to get dishes clean, you can save water in unnecessary rinsing.	50 -150
7.	Try to save the running water that is wasted while waiting for hot water. Collect the colder water in a container and use it for water indoor plants and etc.	100-300
8.	Fixing leaky faucets or pipes joints will save 20 gallon per day. A leaky faucet may simply need a new washer. Replace toilet handles that stick.	600
9.	Fix or shut-off dripping faucets will save 15 gallon each day.	450
10.	Use a partially filled bathroom sink to rinse your razor instead of letting the water run while you shave will save 3 gallon per day.	90
11.	Use dye tablets or food coloring once a year to check for toilet leaks. Remove the toilet tank cover and drip 10 drops of food coloring into tank, wait 15 minutes and check for color in the toilet bowl. If you see any color in your toilet bowl, then you have a leak and it should be repaired immediately.	200
12.	Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket. Using a wastebasket instead of the toilet for tissues and other bits of trash will save water	
13.	Keeping a bottle of water in the refrigerator for drinking instead of running the tap.	300
14.	When rinsing vegetables, use a filled pan instead of running water.	200

15.	Plan ahead to defrost food by allowing it to thaw in the refrigerator or in the microwave oven instead of letting the water run over the food for thawing. If you are determined to use water to defrost frozen food, then place it in a pan of water to conserve water.	100
16.	A dishwasher uses the same amount of water whether it is full or just partially full of dishes, so you should delay the washing of dishes until you are able to fill the dishwasher and avoid multiple washings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many dishwashers have a water saver cycle and consumers should learn how to use it.</li> </ul>	
17.	Select the proper water level for laundry since many clothes washers allow control over the amount of water to be used. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A front-load washing machine uses 1/3 less water than a top-loading machine.</li> </ul>	

### **Indoor Water Consumption Facts**

Toilets	33%
Washing Machines	22%
Showers	21%
Baths	9%
Kitchen Faucets & Dishwashers	9%
Bathrooms Faucets	<u>6%</u>
	100%

## OUTDOOR CONSERVATION

### Water Savings in Gallons per Month

	Watering a lawn in early morning or early evening when there is less evaporation.	
	Adjust the lawn sprinkler to avoid watering side walks, streets and driveways.	300
	Letting your lawn grow longer in the dry weather will keep your lawn's soil moister and require less water.	500
	Fixing leaky faucets or pipes joints will save 20 gallon per day. A leaky faucet may simply need a new washer.	600