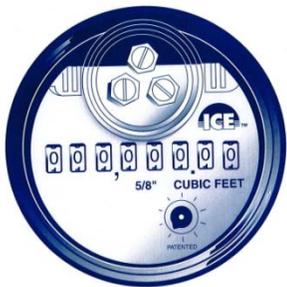
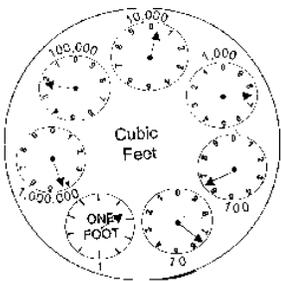


**Got Leaks?** Here are some tips to help you determine whether your home is wasting water and costing you money.

Water Meter - You can use your water meter to check for any hidden leaks. Turn off all faucets and make sure you are not running any appliances that use water. Check the reading on your meter and do so again in an hour. If your meter has moved, you have a hidden water leak somewhere in your home.



If your water meter dial looks like an odometer, it has a small red dial underneath the number display. This dial is a leak detector dial. If you see movement on this dial when your water is turned off, you have a leak somewhere on your property. You may also see the numbers on the far right of your display move depending on the size of the water leak.



If your water meter dial looks like a series of small clocks, you will use the dial marked “one foot” to check for water leaks. If you see movement on this dial when your water is turned off, you have a leak somewhere on your property.

Toilets – Toilet leaks are the most common household leaks and the number one cause of high water bills. Drop a dye tablet or several drops of ordinary food coloring into the toilet tank. Wait a few minutes. If color shows up in the toilet bowl, you have a leak. To determine what the source of the leak is, turn off the toilet’s water supply (the turn off valve is usually near the wall at the base of the toilet). Mark the water level inside the tank. Wait 15 minutes and then check the water level. If it has dropped below your mark, the problem is at the bottom of the toilet tank at the flapper ball or plunger ball. If the water level has stayed the same, then the problem is an overflow near the top of the tank, involving the float ball or the fill valve, or both. All of these items are easy and inexpensive to replace. Look for products labeled chloramines resistant at your local hardware store.

Swimming Pools – To find out if your pool leaks, try the “bucket” test. If your pool has an automatic fill valve, make sure it is fully turned off. Place a bucket on a pool step. Fill the bucket with pool water to about three to four inches from the top, matching the water level in the bucket with the level of the pool. Carefully mark the water levels on both the inside and outside of the bucket. Wait 24 hours. If the pool water has dropped faster than the bucket’s contents, you may have a leak.

Hot Water Heater – When is the last time you checked your hot water heater? If you’re like most people, probably never! If you notice a puddle of water around the bottom of the tank, it probably

indicates a leak caused by corrosion. Corrosion is a sign of old age and the most common reason for replacement. Water heaters last about 15 years and it may be time for you to replace yours.

Irrigation Systems – Whether your irrigation system is manual, sprinkler, or drip, not all leaks are obvious. Check for overly green or soggy spots. This could indicate broken spray heads or underground pipe cracks. Irrigation systems that are leaking into sandy, porous soil may not show up easily. If your irrigation system generates a hissing sound, it could be a sign of a leak. Make sure to regularly check your sprinkler system when it is turned on to check for broken sprinkler heads.

Outside Spigot – Check your hoses for leaks. Repair them with waterproof tape. If your spray nozzle connection is drizzling, wrap the hose threads with Teflon tape.

If you do find and fix a leak on your premises, contact Hayward Water System at 510-583-4600 to inquire about a possible adjustment to your bill once repairs are completed. Keep your receipts as proof of repairs.