



Leak Testing



This printout was designed to assist homeowners in tracing water losses. While it is common for the customer to believe that he/she could not possibly have used the quantity of water registered, it is a generally undisputed fact that a water meter which has been functioning correctly will not, on its own, suddenly register a value higher than actual use. Therefore, the following tests may be made to help find the cause.

General Leak Test 1

Make sure all taps and faucets are turned OFF. Go to the meter and close the valve between it and the water source coming into the building. Check the meter and record a reading (this must be at the actual meter head and not an exterior reader. If the meter display is blank, it can be activated by shining a light on the sensor by the picture of a flashlight). Wait an hour or more (as much time as possible is best). While watching the meter, open the valve. Watch for any movement and take another reading. If any part of the dial moves, or the reading advances, there is a leak.

General Leak Test 2

The best way to test a plumbing system is to use a pressure gauge. Unless you are skilled in plumbing construction and maintenance, you should leave this test to a professional. The plumber can isolate the house plumbing from the source and attach a device to measure actual pressure in your system. The system can then be pressurized using water or air.

The pressure should remain unchanged for at least 1 hour. If the pressure drops, a leak is present.

Toilet Test

The most common (probably 90%) cause of unexplained water loss is faulty toilets. These leaks, usually through the "flap" valve from tank to bowl can go easily undetected as the water simply flows away into the sewer. Yet such leaks can be responsible for thousands of gallons of water loss. Follow the instructions in the accompanying dye packet envelope to determine if this is the cause.



Conclusion

The water meters used by the Village are calibrated before installation, and have never been found to be incorrect in a way which causes charges to increase to the customer. Therefore, even if no leaks are found, it will still be assumed that the meter is accurate unless direct empirical test data can be presented to the contrary, similar to that obtained from the manufacturer by the Village.

