

Allendale Water Dept

Procedures for Leak Detection

1. Read the meter & compare last reading to current reading.
If there is a flashing faucet icon this indicates there was a leak detected within the last 35 days.
2. The following are common causes for leaks and high bills:
 - a. Toilet leaks – do a dye test, check overflow tube
 - b. Sprinkler system leaks – check for damaged heads, check piping to zone valves, check zone valve to be sure they are turning off completely
 - c. Pool fill or refill.
 - d. Soaker hoses left on for extended periods of time
 - e. Faucets dripping
 - f. Ice maker leaking or continually using water
 - g. Continuous feed systems (pet feeders, ponds etc.)
3. Steps for a self check:
 - a. **Turn off all water** and be sure no water is being used in your home. Look at your water meter (you may need to wake the meter by shining a flashlight near the flashlight icon on the face of the meter). The meter display will scroll from the total gallons to the rate of flow.
With all water turned off, no water should be flowing and the rate should display “0.00”. If the rate is higher than water is passing through the meter. You can also take a reading late at night and once again first thing in the morning. The usage should be minimal
 - b. **Toilet check** - You can check toilets for leaks by dropping food coloring in the tank. Do not flush the toilet and wait 30 minutes. The water in the bowl of the toilet should not show any food coloring. If the water changes color in the bowl, water is leaking by the flapper in the tank. This will cause the tank to periodically refill increasing water usage. Another area of the toilet top check is the water level

in the tank. This should not be above the overflow tube. If the water level is above, it will cause water to spill into the overflow sending water down the drain. One last check for toilets is to be sure that water is not constantly running through a tank fill valve. This may be caused by debris in the fill valve assembly. This can be identified by water trickling down into the bowl or by inspecting the tube mounted at the top of the overflow for a drip.

- c. **Check sprinklers systems.** Lawn sprinkler systems run for extended periods of time and consume a large amount of water. If not inspected regularly, leaks may go unnoticed since most systems are programmed to run during the early morning hours. If a sprinkler head is damaged (by lawn mowers etc.), a typical damaged sprinkler head may flow approximately 20 gallons per minute. Most sprinkler heads are designed to flow 2.5 gallons per minute.
- d. **Check Faucets** – Worn rubber washers may cause faucets to drip
- e. **Reread the meter** late at night and early in the morning. Usage should be minimal unless a sprinkler system is used.
- f. **Re read the meter each day** at the same time to see approximately how much water is used daily
- g. **Check for the flashing faucet icon.** If it is present refer to Neptune documentation for further explanation of what leak codes are present.
- h. **Test accuracy of the meter.** Take a reading, refill a 1 gallon container 5 times, re-read the meter. 5 gallons should register on the meter