

Find a Leak

How to read your meter to detect leaks:

First locate your meter (most meters in Cochran are in the front yard near the right-of-way). The meter box will have a metal lid, a long screw driver can be used to lift the lid. **Please be cautious of small insects and reptiles when lifting the lid.** Once you have located your water meter, there is a cap covering the glass dome. Located in the dome are two (2) sets of numbers, one in the center and another set in the above left with **GPM** beside it. This is the leak detector indicator numbers. See sample picture below.

Second, turn off all the water fixtures in and around your home. Check the leak indicator to see if it is moving. If the numbers are moving this indicates a leak or leaks! Some leaks are slow and are easier detected by taking a meter reading (the numbers in the center), leave all the fixtures off for approximately an hour. Then go back and check the reading on the meter, if it has changed, you have a leak. You can determine where the leak is by using shutoff valves and eliminating the water source. **Note, faucet handles are not shutoff valves.** If you are unable to locate the leak you may need to call a plumber.

Once you have repaired the leak or leaks, you may want to look at your water meter again and check the reading or leak detector to make sure all leaks have been repaired.

If you are unsure or have questions you may call City Hall (478-934-6346) and request someone to come check your meter. Please note, the City is not responsible for leaks in or around your home.

How does a water leak affect my water bill?

These figures are approximate and can be added fees to the normal bill. A leak can also affect sewer usage and charges.

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Waste in Gallons</u> <u>Per Month</u>	<u>Equals</u>
1/32" drip	6,165	\$26
1/16" trickle	24,600	\$105
1/8" stream	98,600	\$420
1/4 "stream	393,833	\$1670



FYI: Possible leaks in the home; Leaking faucet, leaking toilet, flapper valve leaks and flush handle problems. Obviously, making sure your toilets and other fixtures are free from leaks can save you a lot of money.

Underground leaks may also be detected by looking for portions of your property that are always wet. Check your driveway, curb or street for evidence of water flow. It may not be a steady stream of water; it may be a puddle that never dries up, or a dark spot on dry concrete.



How often should I check for household water leaks?

It is recommended that you check for water every 3 months; particularly during the Winter season when pipes can freeze and crack and again during the Summer when irrigation systems are working full force.

TIP! The consumption for November, December and January, of every year, can be used to set your Waste Water (sewer) Flow Average for the year.