

High Water Use Checklist

Know where your water is going

There are a number of factors that may cause your water bill to increase. Slight changes with your household consumption or an undetected water leak can impact on your bill. If you receive an unusually high water account it's important to know where to start looking. The following checklist may help you narrow it down in the first instance. Ask yourself the following questions:

✓ Have you had any new water appliances or fittings installed recently?

This could include new irrigation, dishwasher, washing machine or evaporative air conditioner.

✓ Have you had any known leaks or plumbing work completed in the last 12 months?

If you have, this could account for increased water use.

You can check your meter for indications of a leak:

- Read the meter and record the reading
- Wait at least four hours
- Re-read the meter and compare the figures

If the readings differ you may have a leak. You should have a licensed plumber investigate any suspected leaks. Check online to confirm the criteria for the residential undetected leak adjustment.

✓ Do you have any leaky household appliances, pipes or fittings?

This could include a toilet, dishwasher, washing machine, a pipe, hot water systems or taps. These appliances, if faulty and/or leaking can lose a considerable amount of water in a short period of time.

✓ Has the number of occupants in your house changed?

Water use can go up or down if your household occupancy numbers change.

✓ Have you made changes to your garden?

You may be using extra water on new gardens or lawn through your irrigation or extra watering.

✓ Do you have a watering system at your house?

Test your system for any possible leaks – a broken sprinkler head can waste up to 40 litres per minute. Make sure you test within the watering times permissible (see iconwater.com.au/pwcm).

- Set each station to two minutes.
- Take a reading of your water meter before running the first station.
- Write down the reading again once the two minutes has run through, and calculate how much water was used.
- Repeat this for all stations.
- If the reading for each station is about the same a system leak is probably not causing the increase.
- If one or more of the stations recorded a significantly higher amount of water passing through, then you may have a leak.
- Note that this test will only be accurate if you have the same type and number of sprinklers on each station.

It is good practice to regularly read your water meter to assist in identifying any changes in usage before receiving your quarterly account.

For more information visit our website at iconwater.com.au/meter or call us on 02 6248 3111.