

The Role of Metering of Water in Water Conservation

Metering of water is just one way by which Westmeath County Council can identify leaks on our water piping system and will facilitate the enforcement of Water Conservation measures by the Water Conservation Unit.

Once a meter is installed on your property the following tips will help you to identify and read your meter. They will also indicate possible leaks and bursts which can occur at any time but particularly in periods harsh weather conditions.

How to locate your meter.

In towns meter boxes are generally located in the footpath outside your premises or in some cases to the rear of a property. See picture A.



If you have a farm the meter will be on the public side of your stopcock usually in the grass verge. See picture B.



How to read your meter.

The meter box can be opened by prizing off the lid with a screwdriver or by a tri head screw in the case of a locked meter box.

Please ensure that when you are finished that the lid is replaced properly and shut firmly to ensure that box remains water tight.

All our meters are metric and they measure water in cubic meters. As water passes through your meter the red dial will begin to rotate and the reading digits will increase. The figures in red show the amount of litres used and the figures in black indicate cubic metres. This is the figure on which your bill will be based. Each meter has its unique serial number and this number will be linked to your Customer Account.

We are also using a tagging system on our meters which stays in place even if the original meter needs to be replaced.



How to turn off your water in case of emergency.

Locate your stopcock and turn clockwise.

How will I know if there is a leak on my supply?

If you have turned off all taps, urinals, drinking troughs etc and the red dial is still turning over this indicates the presence of a leak. This leak may not be obvious as many leaks occur underground and soak away into foundations or the soil. Long term leaks will eventually cause damage to structures such as internal walls, foundations etc.

How to detect a leak.

Check all pipe connections sewers and drains for evidence of excess water. If you find an underground leak the following procedure should be followed:

- Check the number of revolutions on the red dial
- Shut off the water at the stopcock (internal and external)
- Recheck revolutions
- If the number of revolutions has either stopped or seen to be reduced the leak is in the length of pipe work that has been shut off
- If there is no reduction in the revolution repeat the process
- If the leak still can not be located call your plumber

Note: Sometimes it is easier and less time consuming to lay a new section of pipe than to locate and repair old pipes.

We would advise that you read your meter on a regular basis in order to ensure that leaks are detected as soon as possible

Should you have difficulty in finding suspected leaks you can call our Water Conservation Office on 044 9349093 or Water Services on 044 9332286.

The water meters installed in Westmeath are solely the property of Westmeath County Council and any unauthorised interference with the meters shall be deemed as an offence.