

## Our Mission

*At Spanaway Water we are committed to providing a safe and dependable drinking water supply.*

*To protect public health and meet our customers water needs, as well as to provide water for firefighting for the community served.*

*Spanaway Water is a non-profit mutual water company owned by all the property owners (members) served by the company. SWC serves over 9,500 families and more than 380 businesses in the Spanaway area. The company's Board of Directors are elected from and by the company members, therefore, you can be certain that both high water quality and reasonable prices are their top priorities.*



Report broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water provider.

For more information on water conservation you can visit your local library. Or visit the web and search for water conservation.

The University of Washington, Horticulture Library, Seattle, Washington has excellent references on the use of landscaping in water conservation.

Suggested Reading list:

- ◆ Practical Plumbing Handbook, California Urban Water Conservation Council, 2006
- ◆ Ultimate Guide to Plumbing, Complete Projects for the Home: Merle Henkenius, 2006
- ◆ Water Consciousness: How We All Have To Change To Protect Our Most Critical Resource: By Alexandra Fix. 2007.

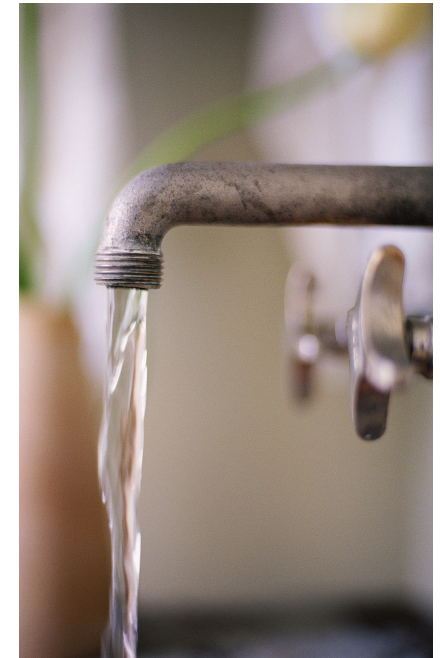
These books should be available on Amazon.com.



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## Water Leak Tips & Tricks



**Spanaway Water  
Company**

Tel: 253-531-9024

## Shutting off Water at Your Meter

Should you need to shut off the supply of water to your house (to repair a leak, etc.) there is usually a shutoff valve right at the water meter.



**Meter Off**



**Meter On**

◆ The water meter shutoff valve typically looks like a knob located on the pipe connected to the water meter. Often this knob will have an arrow stamped into the top indicating the direction of flow.

◆ To shut off the water supply, use a large pair of pliers to turn the knob 90 degrees.

- ◆ You can check to make sure that the water is off by operating a faucet or hose bib.
- ◆ To restore the water supply to your home, simply turn the knob back to the position you found it.
- ◆ Your water meter is generally located in front of your home. Outside meters are typically housed in a concrete or plastic box usually marked "water". Carefully remove the lid by using a tool such as a large screwdriver or pliers. Visually examine the area around the meter to make sure there are no harmful insects or other animals.

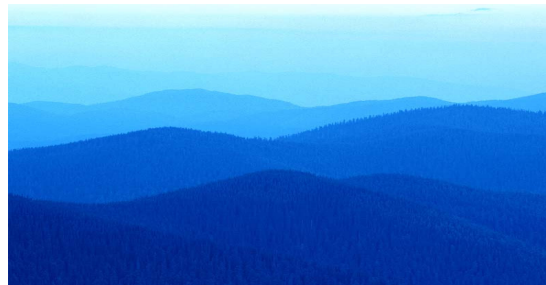
## Using Your Water Meter to Check For Leaks

Locate your water meter on your property. If you lift the meter box lid you will see what looks very much like an old style speedometer. Like a car speedometer the meter's hand only moves if water is moving through the meter.



This hand shows the speed of water movement in the meter. Water meters read in cubic feet, not gallons (1 cubic foot = 7.48 gallons and one needle revolution equals one cubic foot). This reading is used for your water bill. To check a reading on your bill stub, compare the bill stubs reading with the reading on your meter. The reading on your meter should be higher than that on the bill stub since you have used some water since the meter was read.

The leak indicator is the small center wheel. This indicator turns at very low flows and is only used to show small water leaks. If the small center wheel is turning with all water off, then water is leaking. You can also note the odometer reading and then, after not using any water, re-check it after 30 minutes. The reading should not have changed. If the reading has changed it is time to double check all plumbing. Even a small leak adds up to a lot of water over a two month billing period. If you have questions about meters or leaks call us at 531-9024. Leak repairs save water and your water dollars!



## Toilet Leaks

Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save you up to 1,000 gallons a month.

If your toilet flapper doesn't close after flushing, replace it.

Many silent leaks allow water and your money to go down the drain. To help detect unseen leaks make sure that you read your meter.

We have free leak detection tablets available at our office.



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