

# Checking your water usage

## Water Consumption. You're In Control!

### Where did all that water go?

If you take meter readings and monitor your water consumption on a regular basis, in time you will be able to:

- Determine the water used through automatic sprinklers and water using appliances
- Identify a potential leak
- Create more efficient water use practices
- Save water, save money and save the environment

Below is a diagram of a typical meter reading. The black numbers show the reading in kilolitres (kl)\*. The red numbers indicate hundreds, tens and units of litres respectively. In this example the reading is 462 kilolitres.

Start taking your meter reading by recording the black numbers. When next reading the meter, subtract the first reading from the current reading to give your consumption in kilolitres.

Below is a typical meter reading.



**Black Figures**  
(Kilolitres)

**Red Figures**  
(Hundreds/Tens/Units)

\*NOTE: 1 kilolitre (kl) = 1,000 litres.



### Check for leaks

Turn off all your taps and read your red numbers. Wait at least 30 minutes, longer if possible.

If there is a change in the red numbers, and no one has used water, you may have a leaky underground pipe, toilet or garden tap. You will need to contact a plumber to locate and repair any leaks.



### Saving water inside your home

- Install water efficient shower heads and take shorter showers
- Only use your dishwasher and washing machine with a full load
- Install a dual flush toilet
- When buying new appliances, choose at least 4-star rated models
- Turn off the tap when shaving or brushing your teeth
- Install flow control aerators to your taps to reduce water flow



### Saving water outside your home

- Use a tap timer when watering with a sprinkler to avoid over watering
- Check your sprinklers to ensure they are watering your lawn/garden, not spraying onto your driveway, or the road
- Put mulch on your garden beds. This can reduce water loss through evaporation by 70%
- Use a bucket of water for washing the car and only rinse off using the hose with a trigger nozzle fitted
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and paths

