



## Landscaping Around Meters and Transformers

The Delano Municipal Utilities crew wants to thank our customers who trim the shrubs near the electric and water meters, and to remind those who haven't trimmed yet to please clear a path for them. Once a month our employees go out in every kind of weather, usually spending two full days reading all the meters in town. From what I hear, in spring and fall it isn't so bad, but in August and January, it can be brutal. The quicker they can get in, read the meter, and get out, the better they like it. Fighting an overgrown shrub in front of the meter can make the job a lot tougher.

The same can be said for the transformer that serves your home. I know that they aren't the most attractive lawn ornament around, but they serve a critical purpose. If there is a fault or failure in that transformer, the quicker we can get to that transformer, the sooner your lights will be on. We do our best when working around our equipment to restore your lawn after we dig it up for repairs. Thank you for keeping landscaping around transformers and meters to a minimum.

## WATER LEAKS CAN BE EXPENSIVE

Simple Leaks can add up over time.

Size of Hole	Gals/MIN	Gals/Day	Cost/Day	Gals/Month	Cost/Month	Gals/Year	Cost Year
● 0.1 inch	2.1	3,012	\$12.39	90,360	\$371.70	1,099,246	\$4,460.40
● 0.2 inch	8.4	12,047	\$49.56	361,410	\$1,486.80	4,397,155	\$17,841.60
Drips per Second	<b>Drips</b>						
1	.006	8.64	\$0.03	259.2	\$1.07	3,153.6	\$13.02
5	.03	43.2	\$0.17	1296	\$5.35	15,768	\$65.12
8oz	.062	89.28	\$0.37	2,678.4	\$11.06	32,587.2	\$134.50
12 oz	.094	135.36	\$0.60	4,060.8	\$16.77	49,406.4	\$204.05

The Above chart is based on 60 PSI and \$4.13 per 1000 gallons. If leaks are during the winter months, your water usage will affect your sanitary sewer rates as well.

Note: The above figures are only estimates, but they are close enough to give you an idea of water usage.

One of the most likely culprits for high water bills is your toilet. Tanks can leak and you may never know it. There is an easy test you can perform to see if your tank is leaking.

First, if you have one of those toilet deodorizers that hang in your tank, remove it, and flush the toilet several times until you have clear water. Let it sit for a few hours and flush it again just to make sure your water is clear. Next, get some dark food coloring. Open the tank lid and put several drops in the tank. Now wait for a few hours, and then check the bowl. If there is any color in the bowl you have a leak that needs to be repaired. If you don't have any food coloring, you can visit our office and pick up some free tablets that you can drop in the tank. If you have any questions, please call the Delano Municipal Utilities office at 972-0557.

# WATER SAVING IDEAS

- **Kitchen Sink** – Handwash efficiently – Scrape dishes and rinse all at once. Soak pots and pans overnight if very dirty. Cut down on cleanup by serving single pan meals.
- **Kitchen Sink** – Defrost without water – Plan ahead to thaw frozen foods and ice trays in the refrigerator when possible. If necessary to force thaw food, place in bowl of cold water.
- **Kitchen Sink** – Clean vegetables and fruit efficiently – Use vegetable brush for fruits and vegetables. If you have a hand sprayer, use it sparingly with short bursts of water. Install low kitchen consumption (2.2gpm) faucet aerators.
- **Drinking Water** – Promote water conservation at the table. Don't let the waiter bring water unless you request it. Discourage automatic refilling of empty water glass. Use a durable cup at drinking fountains to avoid water and paper or plastic waste.
- **Drinking Water** – Keep a bottle of drinking water in refrigerator. Don't run tap water for cold water without collecting for other non-consumptive uses. Make only the amount of coffee or tea you are going to drink. Use ice cubes to cool water. Recycle leftover drinking water.
- **Driveway or Street** – Wash car sensibly – Wash in sections, rinse with short spurts from hose. If you need to wash often, use a car wash that recycles water. (Many of them do.) Try to wash car near hedges, shrubs, for "a free drink."
- **Dishwasher** – Use it efficiently. Scrape dishes off. Soak pots and pans overnight if necessary. Wash only full loads. Experiment to discover least possible detergent necessary to cut down on suds residue.
- **Backyard Pool** – Prevent evaporation and splashing. Cover when not in use to prevent evaporation (and accidents!) and to keep clean. Don't fill it up, high-water splashes easily. Recycle wading water for plants, shrubs, lawns.
- **Lawn, Garden** – Practice water-saving horticulture. Let grass grow higher in dry weather. Use drip irrigation systems and water timers. Try re-landscaping with low water plants and succulents. Use mulch.
- **Lawn, Garden** – Make every watering count – Water slowly, thoroughly and as infrequently as possible. Best time to water is very early in the morning to minimize evaporation. Aerate lawn, use drip irrigation systems and water timers.
- **Washing Machine** – Wash efficiently – Use load selector for large or small loads if there is one. Otherwise, wash only full loads. Use cold water. You won't save water, but you will save energy and money. Try using less detergent.
- **Washing Machine** – Buy a water saver – When you buy a new machine, select the one that uses the least water per pound of wash. Get a suds-saver attachment. Be sure to check energy consumption – buy machine which uses less water and energy.
- **Shower** – Shorter, lighter showers – Turn off water while soaping up. See how light a spray you can wash with. It is not necessary to shower longer than 5 minutes. Replace with low consumption (2.5 gpm) showerheads.
- **Pipes** – Insulate hot water pipes – Water is wasted if you turn on hot water tap and wait for hot water to "come up". To reduce waste, wrap hot water pipes with insulating material. Make sure faucets are turned off when not in use.
- **Faucets** – Repair leaks – Check all faucets, including outside hose connections for leaks. Replace work washer, o-rings, packing and faulty fixtures. A periodic "leak check" (at least twice a year) should be conducted on all faucets from cellar to attic.
- **Bathtub** – Don't overflow tub – A full tub holds up to 50 gallons. You can bathe adequately with one quarter as much. Clean tub while you are in it. Mark height of water with tape during bath. Next time, take shower with tub stopped and compare water level.
- **Bathroom Sink** – Shave & brush teeth the water saving way – Quickly rinse shaving razor. Use an electric razor; it uses energy but it saves water, soap, laundry and blades. For teeth, use a cup to rinse. Replace with low consumption (0.5gpm) faucet aerators.