

**STEP 3:** Wait for a member of the family to step into the shower and follow the same reading cycle routine as outline above. If you're shocked at how much water is used in the shower, installing low-flow showerheads or curtailing shower durations are both cost saving options.



## Leaking Meters

Leaking meters can result in elevated water bills and can cause property damage. Standing water and saturated grounds surrounding the meter box are clear indicators that something is wrong. Our field crews can assist you in determining whether the leak is a City or private matter.



## Water Conservation Tips

### Toilet

- Install 1.6 gallon, low flow toilets
- If a new toilet isn't an option, use a water displacement bag inside your toilet tank to reduce the amount of water used per flush

### Washing Machine

- Replace older machines with front-load models, which use 1/3 less water than top load machines
- Wait until you have a full load before you wash clothes
- Wash all of your clothes in cold water

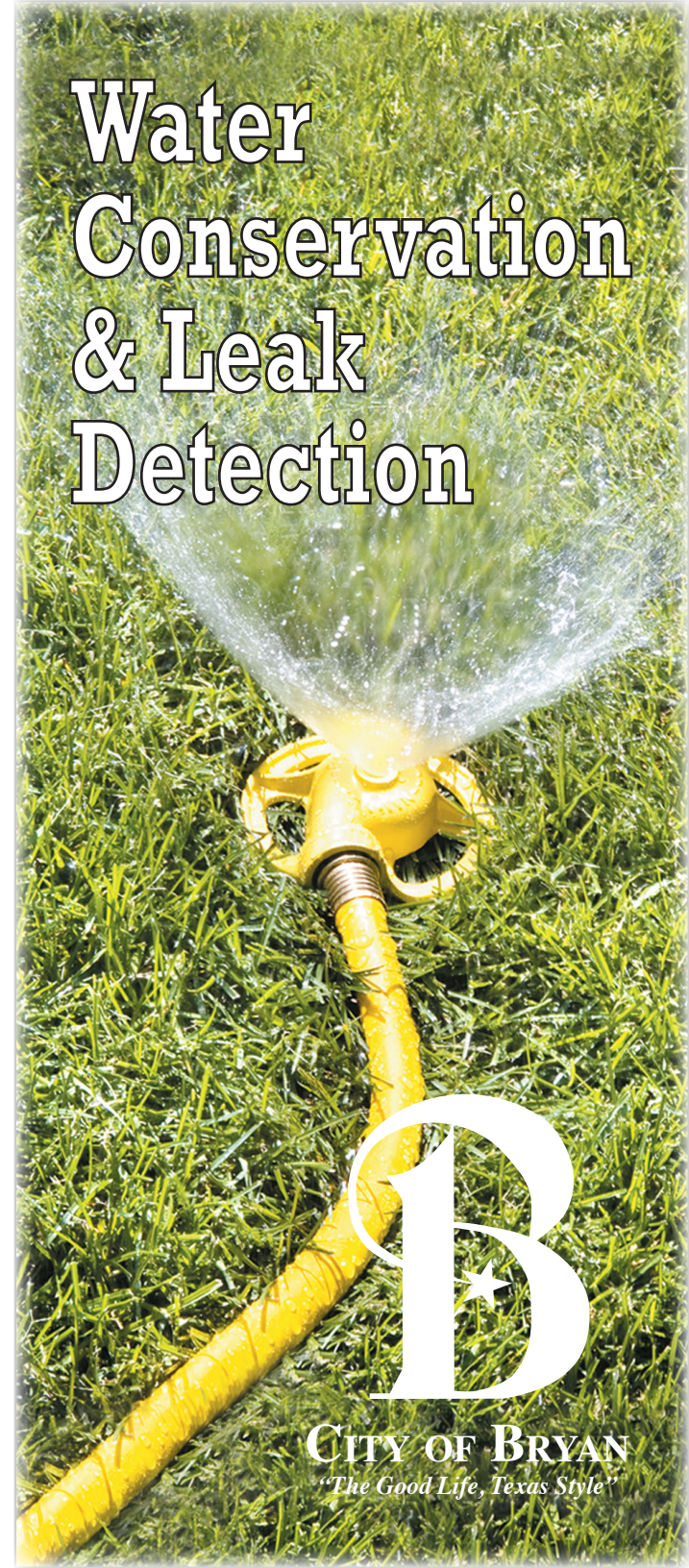
### Shower

- Install inexpensive low-flow shower heads on all showers
- Take quick showers; get wet, turn off water, soap and scrub, turn on water to rinse
- Don't shave in the shower



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# Water Conservation & Leak Detection



**CITY OF BRYAN**  
*"The Good Life, Texas Style"*



## Did you know?

It's easy to take water for granted. We turn on the tap and water comes out. It seems the only time we don't take water for granted is when we do not have it or when we get our water bill. Improving your water knowledge can be a powerful tool in saving you money and lowering your water usage.

## Water leaks cost money

A dripping facet can loose up to 180 gallons a month; whereas, a leaky toilet can use 90,000 gallons of water in a month. Allowing leaks to go unrepaired is like flushing money down the toilet.



## How to Read Your Water Meter

### Step 1: Locate Your Meter

Carefully remove the lid by using a tool such as a large screwdriver. Visually examine the area around the meter to make sure there are no harmful insects or other animals.

### Step 2: Read Your Water Meter

Your water meter is identified by a number that is printed or engraved on its lid. This number is also included on your monthly bill. Water usage is recorded on the meter's dials,

which are read from left to right. In the meter below, the reading is taken from the figures shown under the word GALLONS.



The meter reading indicates the total number of gallons registered by the meter; 539,650 gallons in this example.

However, this would not be the

meter reading indicated on your bill. Since our charge is based on units of 100 gallons, the meter reader discards the last two numbers (the ones with the grey background). The reading as it appears on your bill would actual be 5,396.

## Determining your water use

Now that you know how to read your water meter, it's time to put that knowledge to work. Finding and repairing water leaks will conserve water, which means you save money on your water and sewer bills.

**STEP 1:** For leak detection, eliminate all water use in the house. Check the position of the meter dial and wait for approximately 15 minutes. If the dials haven't moved, you have a relatively water-tight home; however, if the dials have moved, start checking hose connections, faucets, and toilets for water leaks. If everything is turned off and you feel there are no internal leaks and yet the dials are still turning, you may have a hidden leak in an underground pipe. If you believe this is the case, you may need to call a plumber for assistance.



**STEP 2:** A simple method to determine irrigation usage is to record readings on the water meter before and after the irrigation cycle. Straight subtraction of the two readings will yield the amount of water used in gallons (for best results, refrain from internal water use when auditing external water use). The volume of water going into your lawn and garden each week may surprise you.