

Water Meter Home Accuracy Check

Bundaberg Regional Council
PO Box 3130
BUNDABERG QLD 4670
1300 883 699
www.bundabergrc.qld.gov.au

Council hours
8.15am to 4.45pm
Monday to Friday

Fact Sheets available:

1. Water Cycle
2. Water Treatment
3. What I need to know about Wastewater
4. Wastewater Treatment
5. Water Pollution
6. Water Recycling
7. Water Efficiency
8. How to read your Water Meter
9. Water Meter Home Accuracy Check
10. Drip Water your Garden and save
11. Important things to know about drip watering
12. Water Audit for the Household
13. Rainwater Tanks
14. Pool Maintenance

Booklets available:

1. You Can Take Control
2. Create Your Own Water Wise Garden

Additional fact sheets from WaterWise Queensland can also be obtained through your Local Council.

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A normal household bucket will hold approximately nine (9) litres and most modern plastic buckets have a line inscribed on the inside at the 9 litre mark. If the bucket has no marks, nine (9) litres would fill it to approximately 1.5 centimetres from the top edge.

A container of known quantity other than nine (9) litres may be used instead of the bucket, just adjusts the results in the following steps accordingly.

There various different types of water meters installed in the Bundaberg Regional Council water reticulated area. Most water meters will have either four (4) or five (5) black numbers with three (3) or four (4) red numbers. Select the following examples that best suit your current water meter.

Examples: Mark 111 or PSM meters

7438	2659
Black	Red

Using the example shown above, the four BLACK numbers measure kilolitres and are usually ignored for testing purposes.

Reading from the centre of the dial outwards the RED numbers are as follows:

2	-	100's of litres
6	-	10's of litres
5	-	litres
9	-	one/tenth's of a litre

Examples: PSM meters

17438	265
Black	Red

Using the example shown above, the five BLACK numbers measure kilolitres and are usually ignored for testing purposes.

Reading from the centre of the dial outwards the RED numbers are as follows:

2	-	100's of litres
6	-	10's of litres
5	-	litres

Examples: E20 meters

7438	265
Black	Red

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Reading from the centre of the dial outwards the RED numbers are as follows:

2	-	100's of litres
6	-	10's of litres
5	-	litres

Examples: RMC meters

17438	2659
Black	Red

Using the example shown above, the five BLACK numbers measure kilolitres and are usually ignored for testing purposes.

Submultiples of kilolitres used are indicated by a series of four dial pointers. The fraction of a kilolitre used are indicated by the pointer is shown on the face next to each dial. Reading clockwise from the dial on the right hand side.

X0.1	-	100's of litres
X0.01	-	10's of litres
X0.001	-	litres
X0.0001	-	one/tenth of a litres

In all cases, record the number that the dial pointer has passed, NOT the one that the pointer is approaching.

TESTING PROCEDURE

Ensure that no other water is used while testing is being conducted.

1. Write down the RED numbers
2. Fill a household bucket to the 9 litre mark
3. Write down the RED numbers
4. Subtract the number at 1. from the number at 3.
5. The result should be approximately 9 litres
6. Repeat a number of times (five to ten) and average the results
7. If the results are consistently much higher than 9 contact the Water Officer

LEAK DETECTOR

If the outside RED digit is advancing then water is flowing through the meter. Several water meters also are fitted with a leak detector, a triangle device placed above the digits. If this detector is rotating then must be water flowing through the meter. For the water to flow it must have an outlet on the consumer's side of the meter. Carry out the following procedure:

1. Turn off all taps including the tap connecting cold water to the hot water system
2. Check that there are no visible leaks
3. Check that the toilet is not filling after a recent flushing

If the digit is still advancing there HAS to be a leak on the customer's water service. This leak may be in a pipe in or under the house, under the ground or it may be a toilet cistern leaking into the pedestal. Remember to turn the hot water system back on.

Underground leaks may not show up as green patches in the lawn, it depends on weather conditions and soil types. Licensed plumbers are experienced in ways of finding leaks underground.

To test for a cistern leak, put a few drops of food colouring in the cistern, leave it overnight without flushing and if the water in the pedestal is coloured in the morning, there is a leak.

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