



# Fix a Leak Week Student Worksheet

**Milwaukee Water Works**

Safe, Abundant Drinking Water.



**Use Water Wisely. Learn how to find leaks and save water and money at home.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 1: Watch the Clock (and the Meter)

What's the big deal with drips? Small leaks can add up to big water waste, leading to high water and sewer charges. Try these activities and math problems to see how fast water waste adds up.

### Activity: Check Your Water Meter

Drinking water utilities provide clean running water to our homes, schools and businesses. They keep track of how much water flows into your house each billing period using a water meter. You are charged for all water that passes through the meter and into your home, whether you enjoyed a cold drink or a hot shower, or the water dripped, leaked, and was wasted down the drain. Meters are located in the basement or first floor if there is no basement, along the wall nearest the street.

Here are the two kinds of meters used in the Milwaukee area. Which one do you have in your home?



Standard Meter



Horn Meter

Look at the meter dial face. The four black numbers on the white background show water used in hundred cubic feet, or one Ccf. One Ccf = 748 gallons. The two white numbers on the black background show water used in cubic feet. The red needle shows tenths of cubic feet. The reading on this meter is 3,376.8504 Ccf. For each billing quarter, the previous reading is subtracted from the current reading. Charges for water and sewer are based on the difference, which reflects the water used in those three months.



Meter Dial Face

### Here is how to discover if your home has leaks.

Turn off all faucets, showers, and make sure no one flushes the toilet while you do this check. Go to the water meter and lift the lid. Look at the small blue wheel on the meter face. If it is moving slowly or spinning fast, you probably have water leaks.

### See how much water you use in your house from Monday to Friday.

On Monday, read your water meter and write the six numbers you see in the horizontal box on the meter:

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On Friday, go back to the meter and again, write the six numbers here:

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Did the numbers change?

- How much water was used? \_\_\_\_\_
- Where is the meter located in your house? \_\_\_\_\_
- What unit of measure does your water meter use? \_\_\_\_\_

**Bonus:** Convert your water meter reading from cubic feet to gallons. Use the Conversion Equation. Use the meter reading on the meter dial face above for this exercise. Write your answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

### Conversion Equation

**Cubic Feet to Gallons**  
 1 cubic foot = 7.48 gallons  
 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons