

What's the average daily water usage for a household?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average American household uses more than 300 gallons of water daily. With an average of 30 days in the month, this equates to 9,000 gallons per month. Approximately seventy percent (70%) comes from indoor use, including showers, faucets, toilets, and washing machines. The remaining thirty percent (30%) is attributed to outdoor activities such as watering lawns and gardens, outdoor cleaning, and recreation (pools/splash pads).

There are various sources that estimate the average of daily usage per person. In 2020, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources estimated the indoor water usage of a family at 50 gallons per person per day. The Water Footprint Calculator indicates that the average at-home water use is 60 gallons per person per day. The U.S. Geological Survey has estimated that the average at-home water use is 80-100 gallons per person per day.

To understand your water usage, you can divide the number of gallons on your water bill by the number of people in your household, then divide again by the number of days in the month. Note that the usage on your water bill is reflected in 100's.

For example, a household of 3 people receives a bill with a usage of 46. To calculate the daily usage, multiply the "46" reading by 100, then divide by 3 (for 3 people), and divide that result by 30 (for 30 days in a month). The result would be about 51 gallons of usage per person, per day.

What if I suspect I have a water leak?

If the water usage on your account appears higher than expected:

- Consider whether you've had any activity that could explain the higher usage. Common examples include: watering lawns and gardens, washing vehicles or outdoor equipment, outdoor cleaning (porches, decks, siding, driveways), additional guests or roommates, filling pools or running sprinklers/splash pads.
- If no explanation fits, you may want to turn off all water usage inside and outside your home and then go check your water meter (see reverse). If the usage dial is still moving, there could potentially be a leak. Water meters also have a leak indicator that may help determine if a leak is occurring at your location.
- If you try the above steps and no leak is indicated by the water meter results, verify that the reading on your bill matches the reading on your water meter within a reasonable amount. Keep in mind that at least two weeks have likely passed since your reading was taken. Most water readings are pulled between the 1st and 10th of the month.
- If these steps do not return any answers, please call or email our office. It is possible that your meter has not been reading correctly and is now catching up for prior usage.
- For water leaks, the city allows adjustment of the highest impacted bill. The high usage is reduced to an average month's usage for your account. Water leak adjustments must be requested through the utility billing office. Customer should provide proof (paid receipt) showing that the leak has been repaired. Only one water leak adjustment is allowed on each account annually.

Not all City of West Plains water meters match exactly to the one indicated below, but most still have the same elements as shown in this image.

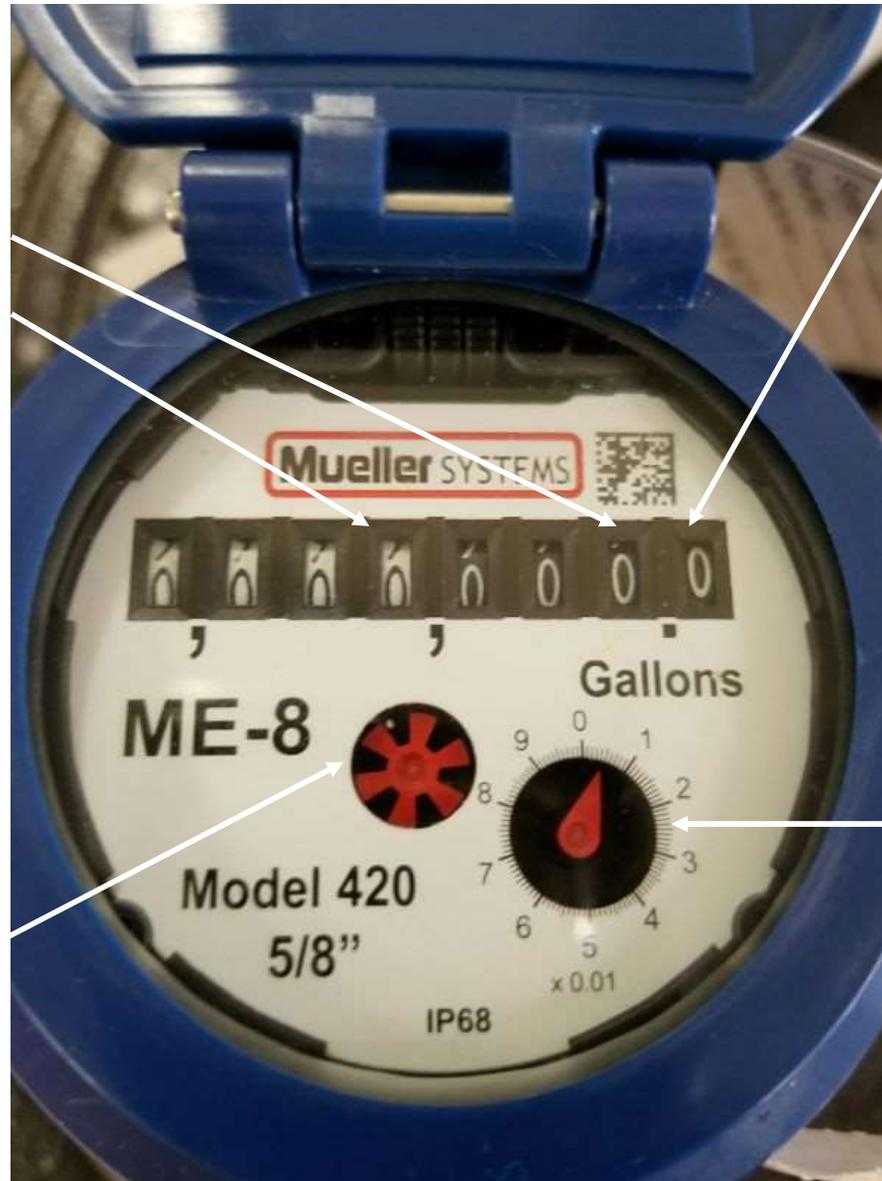
Meter Register

Every turn of a number in the first black register measures 1 gallon the second measures 10 gallons.

Every turn of a number in the first white register measures 1,000 gallons the second 10,000 gallons.

Place Holder

Indicated by 0



Leak Indicator

If no water is being used inside or outside, this indicator should not be moving. If it is moving, you may have a leak.

Flow Indicator

Used when measuring very low flow through the meter.