



# Borough of Lincoln Park

34 Chapel Hill Road • Lincoln Park, NJ 07035 - 1902

Water/Sewer Department

(973) 270-2057 / (973) 270-2059 • 8:00 to 4:00

Emails: [ChrisS@bolp.org](mailto:ChrisS@bolp.org) or [JArnott@bolp.org](mailto:JArnott@bolp.org)

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List of common household water “suckers”:

- **Shower heads** – are they low flow? Different shower heads can dramatically change the amount of water used during showers. The length of each shower can greatly increase/decrease the amount of water consumed
- **Toilets** – Low flow? Older toilets use up to 8 gallons more per flush than newer low flow toilets.
- **Washing machine** – is it high efficiency? Older machines can use 40+ gallons per load while the HE machines use 4-8 per load
- **Water softener** – if you have one, how often is it recharging/going through cycles? Those can use 150 gallons per recharge.
- How often are you running the dishwasher? Those consume 4-15 gallons per load, depending on the age and efficiency.
- Do you **turn the water off when brushing teeth**? If left to run, that can equate to up to 20 gallons of water per session.

**One of the most common leaks is the toilet. Usually you can hear the water running, but not always. You can put a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait to see if any colored water runs into the bowl of the toilet, without flushing it. If it does, you have a leaky toilet. This would be a fairly minor leak.**

## **Here’s the steps to check your water meter.**

**Locate your water meter.** Oftentimes this is located in the basement, by all of your other major appliances. For some, it is connected to some pipes next to your water heater and water softener.

**Note the reading.** Do this at night – right before bedtime. Shine a light on the little screen and give it a few seconds for the numbers to appear. Jot down what the reading on it is.

**Be sure there’ll be no water running.** Sometimes your water softener recycles or you flush the toilet during the middle of the night. If you can avoid any of this taking place overnight, you’ll get the best results.

**Check the reading.** When you first awake, be sure you check the meter right away.

This simple test should give you an indication if there are any unforeseen leaks going on. If the meter is the same as when you read it before bedtime, you’ve passed the water leak test. If you notice it has moved – then you have some issues. You may want to run the test a second night just to be sure your results are good (and not some anomaly).