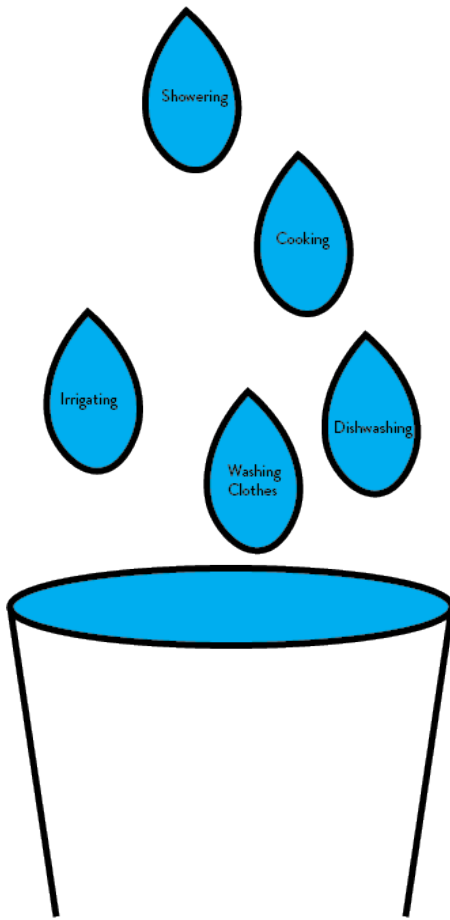


Home Water Audit



WHAT IS A WATER AUDIT?

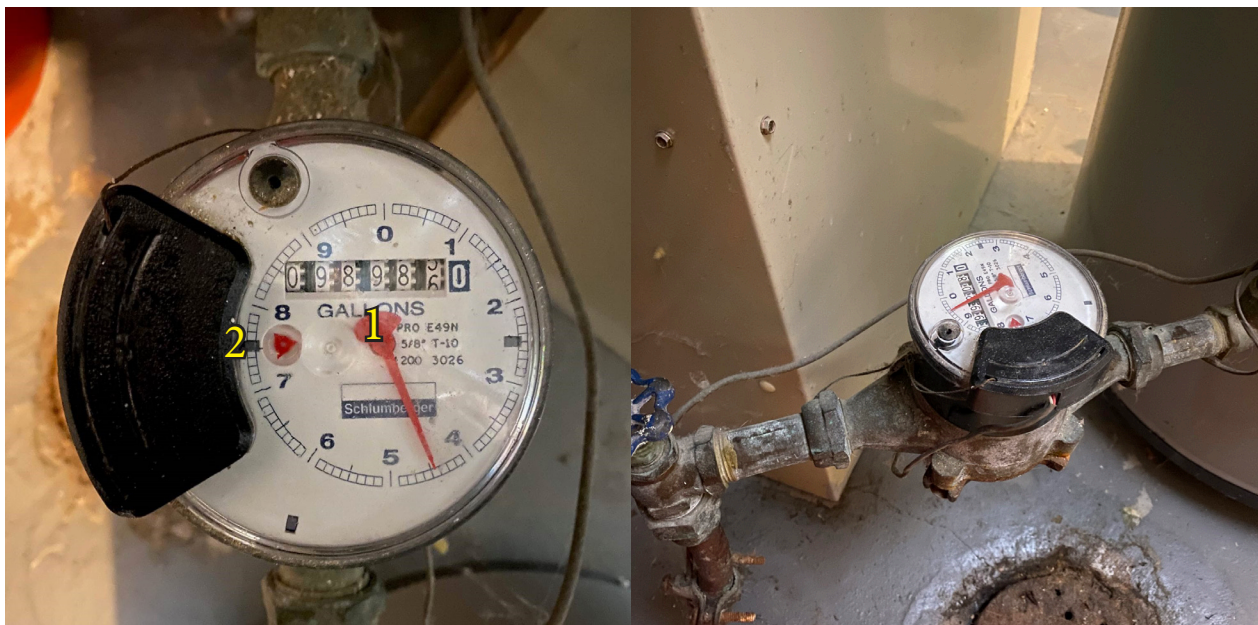
A water audit helps calculate how much water you use and where you use it most. A water audit identifies leaks within your home and recommends practices that you can adopt to lower your water consumption.

WHY COMPLETE A HOME WATER AUDIT?

- Can help save you money on your water bill
- Helps conserve groundwater, an exhaustible resource
- Can help reduce water runoff and erosion
- Cut your water use by 30%
- Can identify leaks you were unaware of

LEAK DETECTION

Your water meter can help identify leaks in your home. To test for leaks, turn off all water fixtures inside and outside your home and don't use any appliances that use water like your dishwasher or laundry machine. Your water meter will either be in the basement or crawl space. If, after turning off the water, the red dial (1) on your water meter continues to go up, or the low flow triangle (2) on your meter is spinning, you have a significant leak. To check for less noticeable leaks, leave your water off over night without anyone using it. If the number on your meter changes, you have a small leak. You can also check your meter over 24 hours while using your water normally to calculate your water use and compare it to your water bill.



Water Audit Checklist



- Check for leaks in your toilet by placing some food coloring in the tank. Let the water sit for 30 min without flushing. If the water in the bowl is colored, your toilet has a leak. [Video Help](#)
- Check faucets, shower heads, pipes by sinks, pipes by laundry machines, and around toilets for dripping or pooling water.
- Check your irrigation system for broken sprinkler heads, wet spots in your landscaping can be caused by sprinkler leaks.

INDOOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS

- Install SmartSense plumbing fixtures certified by the EPA labeled with the SmartSense seal. These are low-flow fixtures like aerators for your sink and spray heads for your shower. [Video Help](#)
- Check your appliances and toilet to see if they are high efficiency. The toilet should be marked just behind the lid or at its base. Most appliances are marked with their efficiency on the interior of their doors. High efficiency standards are: toilet (1.6 GPF or less), dishwasher (6-10 gallons per load), washing machine (15-30 gallons). Your city or electric company may give you rebates to replace old, inefficient models. [Video Help](#)
- Calculate your daily water consumption at <https://www.watercalculator.org/> Challenge yourself to decrease your consumption by 25%.

OUTDOOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS

- Look at your property after watering to check for runoff—excess water pooling on, or flowing over, your lawn. If there is runoff, you may need to fix a sprinkler, or look at your spray pattern. Runoff water is wasted water and can cause erosion.
- Consider retrofitting your irrigation system with a timer, more efficient sprinkler heads, drip irrigation, or smart irrigation controller.
- Organize plants by water need and set timers for those under shade to be watered less.
- Think about removing turf and installing drought tolerant, Minnesota native plants that require less water and maintenance. The big roots of native plants also help storm water runoff soak into the ground.
- Add mulch to your gardens to help soil and plants retain water longer.
- Do not irrigate your lawn when it rains, grass only needs one inch of water per week and that can come from rain. Add a rain gauge to your landscaping to inform your watering routine.
- Let your grass stand tall. Cutting your grass an inch taller makes your lawn more resilient to drought and requires less watering.

If you would like to order any or all of the free items listed below, please contact Gael Zembal e: gzembal@ninemilecreek.org and email her this completed document; quantities are limited and only available to residents of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

I WOULD LIKE A FREE

WATER TIMER

SHOWER HEAD

FAUCET AERATOR