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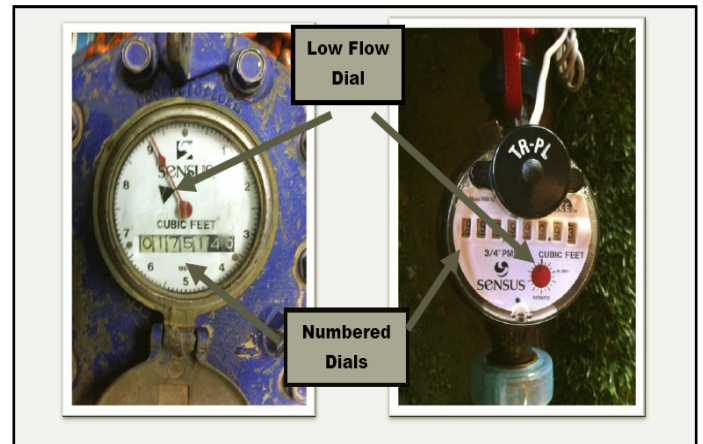
TROUBLESHOOTING WITH METERS

Sometimes, TCWD receives phone calls from concerned customers about a possible leak in their residential plumbing. It is important to note that these types of systems include both the plumbing inside the home, as well as the exterior irrigation system. A water leak can occur at any point in the plumbing system, but an informed homeowner can effectively diagnose the existence of a water leak through the following simple testing methods.

The first step to determine the existence of a water leak is to use the most effective tool for the job, the water meter. The water meter is usually located inside a meter box at the front of the property in the lawn. In some cases, residential meter boxes can be located in the sidewalk. These meters are designed to track a customer's water consumption by measuring the amount of water that travels through the body of the device. Furthermore, the internal components of a residential water meter are designed to spin forward only, not backward.

Typically, there is a mounted register on the water meter which has a series of numbered dials. These dials allow TCWD Meter Readers to determine the customer's water consumption. One of the more important items on the register face is the low flow dial. The design of these dials can vary with meter manufacturer. Many meters in TCWD's service area have a small black dial that is triangular in shape. Other meters have a low flow dial that is circular in shape and is red in color, as noted in the picture. The low flow dial is an essential tool for homeowners to determine if there is a leak in the plumbing system since it is designed to spin if there is any amount of

water traveling through the meter, no matter how large or small.

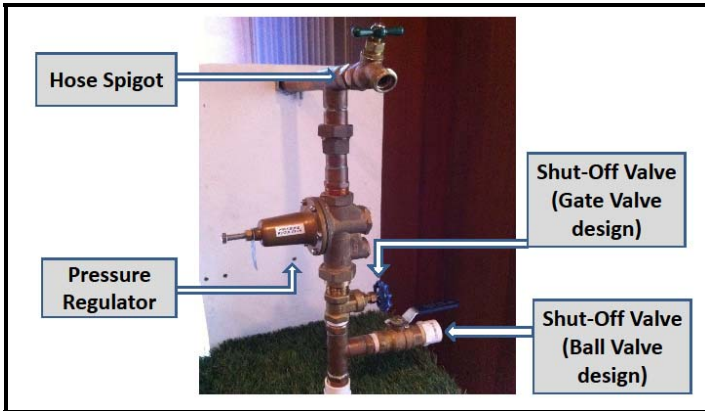


TYPICAL WATER METER REGISTERS

Prior to using the low flow dial to isolate a leak in the plumbing system, it is important to ensure there is no water in use at the residence. This includes items such as irrigation systems, dishwashers, washing machines, and faucets. If there is no water in use and there are no leaks in the plumbing system, the low flow dial is designed to remain still. If all of these items are turned off and the low flow dial still spins, there is a leak in the system.

Once it has been established that there is a leak in the system, the next step is to determine if the leak is in the home plumbing or in the outside irrigation system. In order to accurately determine which area of the plumbing system is affected it is important to isolate the irrigation system from the home plumbing, and vice versa. First, isolate the irrigation system from the home by slowly shutting off the main irrigation valve and check the water meter. If the low flow dial has stopped spinning, the leak is in the

irrigation system. If the low flow dial is still spinning, the leak is probably in the home plumbing.



TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL VALVE ASSEMBLY

The next step is to confirm your findings through the isolation of the home plumbing from the irrigation system. This is done by slowly opening the irrigation main valve to restore system pressure. Then, slowly close the home plumbing main valve. In most homes, this valve is typically in line with the pressure regulator and main hose spigot located by the front door or in the garage. This valve can come in two designs: Gate Valve or Ball Valve. A word of caution, if this valve is not exercised at least once a year, it may not work correctly at a time of great need. In order to exercise this valve, you simply open and close the valve slowly. This is an excellent item to place on a New Year home inspection list.

Return to the water meter and check the low flow dial. If the low flow dial has stopped spinning, the leak is in the home plumbing. TCWD recommends that homeowners contact a certified plumber to complete these types of repairs. If there is ever an instance of a leak at the water meter connection inside the meter box on the District's side of the meter (before the meter), please contact TCWD Customer Service and a District representative can schedule the necessary repairs.

DISTRICT FACILITY TOUR

On February 24th, TCWD hosted a tour of the Robinson Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for local Daisy Troop No. 1701. The primary focus of the visit was the practice of recycling. Some of the additional topics which were discussed included the protection of our natural

resources and how to decrease our impact on the local environment.

TCWD's Wastewater Chief Plant Operator Travis Jones demonstrated how the WWTP receives and treats all of the sewage from residents and businesses on the upper Plano, explained the different treatment methods which are used at the WWTP, and ended with a brief walkthrough of the facility. All of us at TCWD had a wonderful time sharing the afternoon with the Troop No. 1701, and hope the experience is a lasting one.

If you are interested in scheduling a District facility tour for your youth group, please contact Michael Perea, Special Projects Manager at (949) 858-0277.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Regular Board of Directors Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board Meeting was held on February 15, 2012, and the following items are highlights from the Meeting:

- Presentation of TCWD Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Financial Audit
- Status update relating to the Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility
- Status update relating to the Alternate Raw Water Transmission Line
- Status update relating to the Dove Reservoir to the Trabuco Reservoir Inter-tie and Trabuco Highlands Pressure Reducing Stations Projects
- Adoption of the 2012 Orange County Regional Water and Wastewater Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update