

MONITORING WATER USE

Regular water use monitoring is the key to finding leakages and inefficiencies to help save water.



If you can't measure it, you can't manage it

It is almost impossible to save water if you don't know how much you are using, where and when it is being used and where your best opportunities for water savings exist.

Monitoring water use enables you to understand your water use patterns and discover leaks and inefficiencies. Without monitoring, leaks can remain undetected because most wastewater goes directly to sewer. This means you pay unnecessary water and wastewater charges. If you have leaks in your hot water services you'll pay unnecessary energy bills.

Water use monitoring will also assist with developing a maintenance schedule and water savings program.

How to monitor your water use

Installing sub meters

To get the most out of your monitoring program you need to install sub meters throughout the building or site. The sub meters help determine where and how water is being used.



Manual monitoring

If you don't have an automatic monitoring system you can keep track of water use with manual readings. You should read the meter at the end of the day and again the following morning.

Ideally, meter readings should be very similar. If there is a large difference in readings and no activities occur at night, leaks need to be investigated and fixed. Overnight flow is often caused by leaking pipes, cooling towers, irrigation or amenities.

Automatic monitoring systems

A continuous monitoring system is a more efficient way to monitor water use and keep track of multiple sub meters. Continuous monitoring systems save time, identify your water use patterns and make it easier to identify unusual water use. In most systems, water use is recorded at least every 15 minutes, giving an excellent picture of water use.

Data loggers

Continuous monitoring systems are usually a mechanical meter with a data logger attached. There are various types of data loggers, from fully automated (much like a mobile phone that can upload the data on a regular basis) to simple data loggers that are not instantaneous and require a manual download for you to analyse the data. These systems are relatively inexpensive and give good information.

Continuous online monitoring

Your business can choose to pay a fixed charge for data that is available through the internet. Your service provider will install a data logger on nominated main meters and sub meters and data will be sent to their computer servers via a mobile phone network.

You should be able to access the water consumption information from any computer with internet access. The system can be programmed to alert you via email or SMS if there are dramatic changes in water use or increase in base flow.

If you want to establish an online monitoring system for your building you will have to pay an upfront cost to set up the system and a smaller annual service charge. Costs will increase with the number of sub meters monitored and the complexity of your building.

There are great advantages in being able to access data from any computer and being able to identify problems as soon as they emerge. You can save money in equipment maintenance and upgrade costs.

Using your building management system

You can use your existing building management system (BMS) to continually monitor water use. Talk to the supplier of your current building.

Saving water in business

Visit hunterwater.com.au/savewater for more water saving tips for your business

