

RESOLUTION NO. 2-2010-B

**POLICY RE: ADJUSTMENT TO SANITARY
SEWER CHARGES DUE TO WATER LEAKS**

WHEREAS, the Wastewater Department has recommended certain adjustments be allowed to the sanitary sewer charges in the event of increased bills due to water leaks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Works of the City of LaPorte that the following policies be adopted pertaining to adjustments in the sanitary sewer charges due to water leaks.

I. Water leak(s) *NOT DISCHARGED* to sanitary sewer system

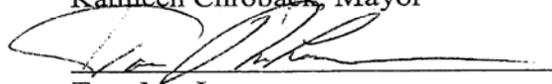
If a water leak occurs on the owner's side of a city water meter and results in water not being discharged into the sanitary sewer system, the owner may apply to the Board of Works for an adjustment on the sewer portion of the bill only. A Wastewater Department inspector must do a site visit to confirm a water leak. The owner must provide evidence that an adequate repair to the leak has been performed before requesting a wastewater leak adjustment. The owner may apply for a leak adjustment only once in a 12 month period and for the maximum period of two billing cycles. Wastewater usage adjustment will be calculated by using the owner's (prior to leak) previous six month average water usage.

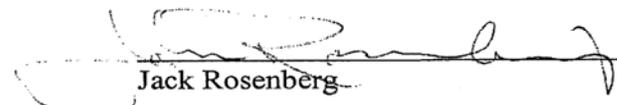
II. Water leak(s) *DISCHARGED* to sanitary sewer system

If a water leak occurs on the owner's side of a city water meter and results in water being discharged into the sanitary sewer system from i.e. broken water line, toilet valve open, etc., the owner may apply to the Board of Works for an adjustment on the sewer portion of the bill only. A Wastewater Department inspector must do a site visit to confirm a water leak. The owner must provide evidence that an adequate repair to the leak has been performed before requesting a wastewater leak adjustment. The owner may apply for a leak adjustment only once in a 12 month period and for the maximum period of two billing cycles. If the adjustment is approved by the Board of Works, the sewer cost during a leak event will be assessed at the same rate as the current water rate per 1000 gallons used.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Works of the City of LaPorte on the 24th day of March, 2010.


Kathleen Chroback, Mayor


Tom MacLennan


Jack Rosenberg

ATTEST:


Teresa L. Ludlow, Clerk-Treasurer

Adjustment To Sanitary Sewer Charges Due To Water Leaks

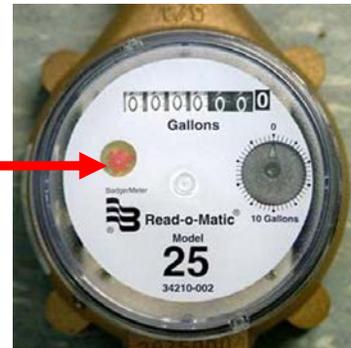
Property owners should address unknown high water usage quickly to avoid water damage and high water and sewer use fees. As a courtesy you may be contacted by the City's Billing Office to check your service for water leaks; with the large number of customers this does not always happen. It is the owners responsibility to keep track of high usage and repair water leaks.

Identifying a leak

First check all water outlets (i.e. faucets, toilets, garden hose sillcocks, etc.) inside and out of the dwelling for possible leak points. If no leak is found other places to look include hot water heater tanks and connections, boilers and washing machines. A final check should be to look at all piping and their connection points. If you have a basement this can be done quickly. Crawl spaces can be more challenging as you will need to use a flash light to trace water lines. A plumber may be required to find hard to locate leaks. If you think you may have a leak close all points of water use (faucets). Then locate your meter. On the top of the meter head is a small spinner (examples below). This spinning device is the low flow indicator and will spin either quickly or very slowly depending on water use. If you have all water use points closed and this spinner is still turning even very slowly you have a leak in the system.



Low Flow Indicator



If no visual leak can be detected, the typical place for unknown water usage is the fill and flush mechanism for a toilet. All toilets have an internal filling parts that ultimately fail. Poorly adjusted or worn components in a toilet will allow water to continue to flow either intermittent or continuously, sometimes it is very hard to see or hear this type of leak. A quick and inexpensive toilet leak test can be performed by using liquid food color. Lift the cover off the toilet tank, using a brightly colored food dye like red or green add about 6 to 12 drops of the food color to the water in the tank. replace the cover but don't flush, wait about an hour. After an hour look in the toilet bowl, if color is present in the bowl you have a leak and repairs are necessary.

Sewer bill adjustments

For undetermined leaks the City Wastewater Department requires the installation of a toilet repair kit and the inspection of its installation. Pictured below are typical toilet internal mechanical components and a replacement kit. Some toilets use kits other than pictured. A undetermined leak will only be adjusted for the sewer portion of the bill and after the replacement of all filling and flushing components of toilet(s) connected to the account with abnormally high water usage. The Wastewater department will determine compliance through a scheduled site visit and visual inspection.

