



TOWN OF FRIDAY HARBOR
Post Office Box 219 • Friday Harbor, Washington 98250
(360) 378 – 2810 • FAX: (360) 378 – 5339 • www.fridayharbor.org

Water Frequently Asked Questions

Can I turn my water meter on or off?

No, only Town Water Department crew members are authorized to service meters and turn them on or off. Please call (360) 378-2810 to arrange a date and time for meters to be turned on or off at no charge for any reason (e.g. plumbing repairs, leaving town, etc.) during normal business hours. Contact the Sheriff's non-emergency number at (360) 378-4151 if a leak occurs after hours for a water crew member to assist.

What happens if I turn on or off my water meter?

Any person who has tampered with a water meter can be found to have committed a Class I Civil Infraction and will be fined \$250 (not including statutory assessments) per infraction. Additionally, property owners are responsible for all costs associated with damaged water meters and will be billed by the Town of Friday Harbor for the repairs.

Are there any shut off valve requirements for my water connection?

Each separate building that is connected to the Town water system is required to have a water shut off valve at the building. We recommend also having a shut off valve close to the water meter to be able to determine if you have an underground leak on your side of the meter to the building. If you do not have shut off valves, contact a licensed plumber to get one installed.

I have a leak somewhere on my property, can the Town locate or fix it?

Property owners are responsible for the water connection on their side of the water meter to their building(s), including any underground pipes. Town water staff cannot locate leaks or fix them. They can assist a licensed plumber during regular business hours with turning the meter on and off when trying to locate a leak or perform repairs.

Do you have any tips for locating leaks?

Look and listen carefully inside the house for a potential source of water flow. However, not all leaks can be heard. Check all faucets, hose bibs, and toilets. Underground pipes from the meter to your house may be the cause if nothing can be located in your building(s).

To check your toilets, add a few drops of food coloring in the tank, wait 30 minutes, and if the coloring appears in the bowl, replace your flapper valve.

What happens if I don't repair a leak on my property?

Pursuant to Friday Harbor Municipal Code, allowing leaks to be maintained is prohibited. Water service may be suspended, terminated, or cancelled if a property owner does not repair the leak.

Can I get a break on my water bill if I have a leak?

Once a leak has been repaired by a licensed plumber, a property owner may apply for leak relief. Accounts will then be audited to determine eligibility for a credit on water consumption and/or sewer overage charges for 1 month of charges.

When do I need to get a plumbing permit?

Plumbing permits are required for properties within the Town of Friday Harbor limits for all repairs or improvements made to the water service connection. In the event of an emergency, plumbing permits must be obtained the next business day after the work has been completed. Be advised that inspections are required prior to covering up any plumbing fixtures.