**For those considering metering water usage, here is one couple’s experience to help share their experience and research.**

To select a water usage meter, you need to figure out what it is that you are looking for as far as results. Are you looking for a data base that you can download from the unit? Are you just looking for something that will automatically shut the water off should there be a large amount of water usage in a short period of time? (i.e. broken line). Are you looking for a system that is easy to install? I know anytime I touch a water line it usually leaks so I leave it to the professionals to do any work on my lines which would add to the cost of putting a system in.

Angela and I wanted a system that we could install without cutting, drilling or dismantling any of our water lines. We also wanted a system that would record usage so we could see how much water is used daily and then compare it to national averages. Then we would have a tool to see where we can lessen the amount of water used. We also wanted the system to be economical to buy.

We are not saying the system we picked was the best. We are just letting you know what we went through on picking our system. There are many out there for you to chose from. Research them all to find one that works for you.

That is what we started looking for and found many different types at many different prices. I googled “residential water monitoring systems” and found many different types of systems from auto shutoffs ($100) to Wi-Fi monitoring systems ($950).

After much searching and comparing units, we settled on the Smart Home Water Monitor made by Streamlabs. It was available in the US on Amazon. (it is now available on Amazon Canada $235). It took a few weeks to arrive and we had to figure out the best place to put it. The Monitor only works on 3/4” and 1” pipes, not 1/2” and cannot be used outside which narrowed down installation places. Once we found a spot in our water shed, we installed it.

To install it, you basically attach it to the surface of a pipe using provided tie wraps. You then plug it into an outlet nearby. You finish the installation on the app which will prompt you to shut off the water main and flush a toilet. This device works by "listening" to the sound of water running through the pipes, so no need to hire a plumber. It was very easy. It took us a little bit of time to get the Wi-Fi to connect as we were quite a distance from the house.

This is a useful product and works well. It is accurate in alerting the flowrates that we have programmed. I recommend it to anyone who is interested in their water usage patterns, and flow rate alerts and major and minor leaks. I also recommend a water leak sensor to corroborate a water leak in a basement or other area, especially for homeowners who are monitoring remotely. This unit has a “Smart Alert” function that learns your normal water patterns for 7 days then alerts you any time your water usage appears to be abnormal.

We use the app as downloaded. You can pay to get more history info and other functions if you feel you need that info.

We also found out that it monitors the room temperature and sends alerts when the temperature goes below 4 degrees C. On the main screen it shows the temperature of the room.

The Smart Home Water Monitor is one type of system out there. I would check around as things change rapidly as to what is available.

We would love to hear from others that have monitoring systems so we can compare and give members more information as to what is available and how well they work.

Happy water monitoring,

Ray and Angela

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