



Low water flow indicator/tell tale



Flex

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Summary

A low flow rate indicator to show if you have water flow or not.

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Tags: [indicator](#) [tell](#) [flow](#) [tale](#) [rate](#) [bore](#) [telltale](#)

I hand drilled my own bore and works great but the flow rate is very low (6 litres per min at best). This accumulated into a large tank which then feeds the house, reticulation etc. Since the flow rate is very low and the consumption is sometimes similar, especially over a full day, its hard to know if the bore is working or not.

This is super simple visual indicator to show if its working. It is based on two 600ml PET containers (water and Coca Cola was what I tried). Everything is press fit together however you will need to silicon the seal between the two bottles if you need full water tight. Will also need a couple of M3 x 15mm screws for outer clamp (I tried a press fit outer but it was too hard to get alignment with inner core)

It relies on 25mm Black Poly pipe (dirt cheap for reticulation) fits perfectly inside almost any standard PET bottle. (Weird as the ID of a standard bottle is 21.6mm or so..it fits though.....)

History: I had built a different indicator with a horizontal axle but after a few weeks it seized up. It was hard to service.

This indicator is super cheap and visible plus easy to clean.

I've included 2 turbines, one for low flow and one for higher flow. The idea is to mount this vertically and the flow pushes the turbine upwards reducing friction.

Depending on your application you can add more turbines to reduce operating flow rate and or add 6mm washers to add more weight.

Normally you can get perfect seal without need for silicon, if you do have a leak, push the barb end towards bottle mouth and this almost always fixes any leak. However if still leaking, put a very thin coating of silicon on the poly pipe before inserting into bottle.

Short video of indicator in action with my bore

You can see how I drilled the bore to around 18m here

and another 4m into the water sand here

PS, Hopefully its obvious you need to print two axles but there is no need to glue together

Model files



axle-v1.stl



low-flow-turbine.stl



high-flow-turbine.stl



tell-tale-v6.stl

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