

# Who is controlling your water?

## What is Hibernating House?

Hibernating House water management system offers users the power to make informed decisions about their water!

MONITOR      DIAGNOSE      ISOLATE

- Consumers can monitor the amount of water they use on a daily basis.
- Be well informed and alerted of any minor or major leaks within their property.
- Isolate water flow when the home is vacant, eliminating the risk of burst pipes and hoses.

71,000 Australian's fall victim to preventable burst pipes each year, amounting to a repair bill in excess of \$284 million dollars.

[www.hibernatinghouse.com.au](http://www.hibernatinghouse.com.au)

## Hibernating House Water Management System



## Return on investment

*We save you in excess of \$182*

- **WATER PRICE RISE:** On July 1st 2011 water prices are set to rise once again. Since 2008 water prices have risen by 55%. Know your water consumption so you aren't stung by these price rises.
- **BURST PIPES:** A slow leak or extreme burst can cause serious damage to your valuable home and possessions. 71,000 Australian's are affected every year. We eliminate the risk of traumatic water bursts and expensive repairs.
- **PROTECTION:** Insurance companies are at a loss of \$284 each year from claims caused by burst water pipes.

- 1 MONITOR DAILY WATER USAGE
- 2 DIAGNOSE UNKNOWN LEAKS
- 3 ELIMINATE RISK OF BURST PIPES
- 4 BE IN CONTROL
- 5 PREVENTION BEFORE CURE

MONITOR      DIAGNOSE      ISOLATE

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### WATER ISOLATION SHUT OFF

Occupants can shut off the water supply to the household; placing the water system into hibernation.

This isolation feature eliminates any risk of burst water pipes and hoses!

### DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

Hibernating House performs diagnostic testing of the water pressure to detect leaks in the system. Diagnostic feature alerts occupants of results.

### 'LIVE' WATER MONITORING

Water consumption is displayed on the user panel, allowing occupants to accurately account for how much water the household is consuming.

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#### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Hibernating House offers customer support for all enquires regarding the unit and its functions. Email or call us.

#### WARRANTY

Hibernating House is purchased with a manufacturers warranty on all parts for 12 months. We offer maintenance call outs at a low cost and will investigate any queries you may have regarding the performance of the product.

#### KEEP IN MIND ...

The Hibernating House water management system is an innovative and original design. When activated the unit eliminates any risk of water ruptures equating to property damage and financial expenses or insurance claims. We do not take responsibility if your home experiences a burst pipe or split hose when the unit is NOT activated. To eliminate risk always activate unit when leaving the home.

Terms & Conditions apply



*Complete water management system for every home & business*

#### Benefits of being in control of your water

- Elimination of burst water pipes
- Know exact daily water consumption
- Predict and budget for water bills
- On demand checks for minor or major water leaks

#### Problems with being out of control

- Unknown water consumption?
- Unpredictable water bills?
- Inability to budget for bills?
- Unknown water wastage?

#### Proud Supporters



# WATER MONITORING THAT WORX

BY SARAH ROBERTSON

A new water monitoring device is set to bring peace of mind to homeowners and create new business opportunities for Australian plumbers.

Due to be officially launched in April, the Hibernating House Water Management System is a water monitoring, diagnostic and isolation system that will help households stay on top of the water they use and protect against, often undetected, leaks.

The new product has been developed by Karl and Katie Forti, the directors of Melbourne-based plumbing business, Your Waterworx, with software development by Daniel Atkinson. Mr Forti initially developed the idea for the water management system and has spent three years developing it for market. With successful testing and installation completed in several houses, the first order of twenty units has already sold out and the pair's new business, Hibernating House, is ready to launch its new product.

Mrs Forti tells *Australian Plumbing Industry Magazine* that the device, the first of its kind in Australia, aims to prevent damage or loss of water before it becomes a problem.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, average Australian water use is about 81 kilolitres per capita. While this figure is down on the 2004-05 average, it is still well over the Australian Government initiative target of 155 litres per person per day, and with average water prices nearly doubling since then, keeping track of water use and ensuring any leaks are detected and fixed quickly is vital.

"We've done research on domestic leaks and Australia's wasting in excess of 8 billion litres of water on small leaks – system leaks, dripping taps and things like that – which is horrific," says Mrs Forti.

At Hibernating House HQ in Melbourne's east, Mr Forti explains how the system works and how simple it is for homeowners to manage.

He says Hibernating House is primarily a device to educate people and encourage them to reduce their water use where possible. He adds that it is unlike any other device on the Australian market. While competing devices measure water flow, he explains, Hibernating House measures water pressure and is therefore a better indicator of potential leaks or pipe ruptures.





## HOW HIBERNATING HOUSE WORKS

The Hibernating House unit has three main features: monitoring, diagnostic testing and isolation. The unit consists of a small alarm-sized LED display panel that sits near the front door and a main unit which connects to the electricity and water underneath the laundry sink. The

unit's home screen of the display panel tells occupants the time, current water pressure and how many litres of water have been used.

### Monitoring

When installed, Hibernating House is programmed with the number of occupants in the house. This number is then multiplied by 155 litres, or less if desired, giving a total water consumption target for the household.

As water is used, the unit monitors any drops in water pressure, displaying the pressure and counting down the litres of water used per day. Once a household reaches the 155 target, the figure goes negative showing occupants they have exceeded the target. Water usage information is logged and data for preceding days, weeks or months can be checked on the display panel.

### Diagnostic testing

Every night the unit runs a diagnostic test on the household's water lines. Several tests are run to register any drops in pressure and determine whether there's a leak. If a leak is found, the display panel informs householders to either check their plumbing for dripping taps or hoses or to contact a professional plumber. A diagnostic test can also be run at any time by pushing a button on the display panel.

### Isolation

As the Fortis explain, the isolation feature is important as it allows households to activate the unit and depressurise a household's water lines to safe levels, effectively putting the water system into sleep mode. With the option of delaying shutdown by between 30 and 120 minutes, Mrs Forti explains that the isolation feature effectively eliminates the risk of burst water pipes. She adds that the feature is suitable for long or short periods of time.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS IMPRESS

To date, Hibernating House has been installed in five properties with installation about to commence in 16 town houses in Melbourne, and Mrs Forti says the feedback has been very positive.

"Yes, amazing; really, really good," she says. "Really positive."

She explains that there was a lot of confusion when the 155 litre per day target was launched in 2008 and that the main feedback their plumbing business, Your Waterworx, has received is how the unit helps overcome the 'unknown' factor.

"People didn't know how much their dishwasher used or their washing machine used or anything like that so that was one target; we wanted to make people aware of how much water they're using," says Mrs Forti.

She adds that working as a plumber, Mr Forti often came across properties where the occupants were unaware that their "nice green lawn" was actually due to a ruptured pipe underground that they didn't find out about until several large water bills later.

## COST AND INSTALLATION

Hibernating House, the business, plans to work with the MPMSAA to run sessions to train plumbers on how to install the units.

Currently, the Hibernating House unit costs \$1,599 including GST plus installation. However Mrs Forti explains that a price hasn't been finalised for plumbers as they hope it will be lower to enable plumbers to make some money on the unit as well as the installation. She adds that installation costs will vary depending on the property and the plumber, and that they expect plumbers will receive about two callbacks per year in relation to leaks found via the unit. She says this will also build customer databases for plumbers, allowing them to be the homeowners' plumber of choice.

## THE FUTURE FOR HIBERNATING HOUSE

Once the product has hit the market, Mrs Forti explains that there are upgrades they want to work on. And in the longer term she says they hope to make Hibernating House a complete monitoring and diagnostic tool for households.

For more information about Hibernating House visit [www.hibernatinghouse.com.au](http://www.hibernatinghouse.com.au) or [www.waterworx.com.au](http://www.waterworx.com.au)

HIBERNATING HOUSE IS PRIMARILY A DEVICE TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ... IT IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER DEVICE ON THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET