

How to Read Your Meter

Your water meter is an important conservation tool. It not only measures the amount of water you use, but it can tell you if there is a leak in your plumbing. Follow these simple steps to carefully monitor your water use.



Step 1

Locate Your Meter

The meter is usually located by your front curb in a direct line with the outside main faucet or valve (where you turn your water off to your home or business). It is usually housed in a concrete box marked “MMWD” or “Water.” If you have trouble locating your meter, call the district at 945-1400.

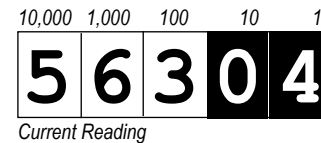
This is a good opportunity to make sure your meter box is accessible by clearing out any vegetation or debris that is blocking the meter.

To check the meter, put on gloves, insert a tool such as a screwdriver in the hole, and pry open the lid. (Do not use your fingers.) A concrete lid is heavy, so be careful when handling it. Set the lid aside and check carefully inside the meter box to avoid contact with insects or rodents. To read the meter, lift the metal cover. Always close the cover on your water meter after you are finished.

Step 2

Read Your Meter

Reading your residential water meter is similar to reading the odometer in your car. Read all the numbers from left to right that appear under the words “Cubic Feet.” The first digit on the right represents one cubic foot, the second from the right represents 10 cubic feet, the third from the right represents 100 cubic feet, or one CCF, and so on (see illustration).



One revolution of the water meter sweep hand equals one cubic foot or 7.48 gallons.

Step 3

Calculate Your Use

To calculate your water use, subtract the previous meter reading from the current meter reading.

Example:

$$563.04 - 561.83 = 1.21 \text{ CCF}$$

(1 CCF = 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons)

For billing purposes, MMWD measures water consumption in CCFs, or hundred cubic feet, every two months. But you can easily calculate your usage in gallons for tracking your consumption on a daily or weekly basis.

Example:

$$1.21 \text{ CCF} \times 100.00 \text{ cubic feet} = 121.00 \text{ cubic feet} \times 7.48 \text{ gal} = 905 \text{ gallons}$$

(1 cubic foot = 7.48 gallons)

Step 4

Check for Household Leaks

In addition to providing you with information about how much water you are using, reading your meter can help you detect leaks in your household plumbing. To check for a leak you must first turn off all faucets inside and outside your house. Be certain the toilet is not flushed and the automatic ice cube maker is not operating when performing this task.

When the water is turned off, the low-flow indicator (see illustration) should not move. A circular motion by the indicator suggests a leak.

If your meter does not have a low-flow indicator, you can use the sweep hand to detect leaks. Mark the position of the meter sweep hand lightly with a pencil. Wait approximately 30 minutes before rechecking the sweep hand. If it has moved, a leak is indicated.