

How to read your water meter and check your system for leaks.

There are several reasons why you'd want to be able to locate and read your water meter. First, you might be interested in just how much water you use in a day. By reading your meter at the beginning and the end of the day you can compare the totals to tell how much water you and your family used. The second reason is to check for leaks. Turn off all the taps in your house. Look at your meter, and if it is still turning, chances are you have a leak somewhere. Here are some hints to help you find and read your water meter.



STEP 1: Locate Your Meter

Your water meter is generally located near the curb in front of your home. Meters are typically housed in a plastic box usually marked "water" (as shown in the photo) or in a meter pit with a cast iron or plastic lid (Figure 1). Carefully remove the lid by using a tool such as a large screwdriver or pliers. Visually examine the area around the meter to make sure there are no harmful insects or other animals.



Figure 1

STEP 2: Read Your Water Meter

Water meters in the U.S. typically measure volume in gallons or cubic feet. In the meter shown in Figure 2, the reading is taken from the numbers shown under the words GALLONS. The meter reads 0,012,345.0 which is the total number of gallons of water recorded since the meter was installed. Our system bills in units per gallon. This meter would be read simply as 0,012,345. The final digit will turn over once the sweep hand has passed the 0.6 mark. The smaller red dial is the flow indicator. This dial will spin if any water is flowing through the meter. This indicator can be useful in leak detection.



Figure 2

Automated Meter Reading

All of our customers meters are equipped with an electronic meter transmitter. This device allows our meter readers to quickly and accurately read your meter. This eliminates problems such as lockouts, estimates, and errors associated with manual meter reading methods. The device is mounted on top of your meter cover. Use care when doing lawn maintenance or any activity around and near your meter box as damages to the unit can be a costly inconvenience.

