



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.

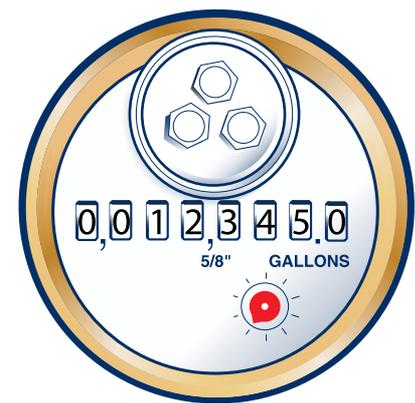


Figure 2

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.



Suspect an appliance is leaking?

Electronic leak sensors placed under major household appliances, such as dishwashers and washing machines alerts you as soon as water starts to collect underneath.



How to tell if you have a leak somewhere:

Make sure all your water outlets are turned off.

Check your water meter.

If it's still turning you have a leak.

To check for leaks in your toilets add food coloring to the toilet tank. Wait 20 minutes. If colored water appears in the toilet bowl, a leak is present. Flush promptly as food coloring will stain.

Check for leaking faucets or pipes (A leaking faucet can waste from 75 to 200 gallons of water in a week.) Check all faucets and pipes periodically. Watch for drips. Replace faulty parts.



Turning the supply on and off.

You may find it necessary to temporarily turn the water supply service off. There are typically two types of shut off valves. The lever style (Figure 3) is most common. Turning it parallel to the flow of water turns the flow on. Turning it perpendicular to the flow, turns the flow off. The sprocket type handle (Figure 4) operates by turning it clockwise to stop the flow or counter-clockwise to turn the flow on.

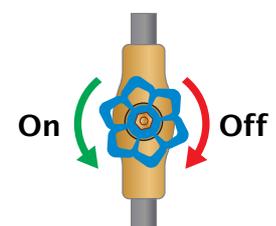
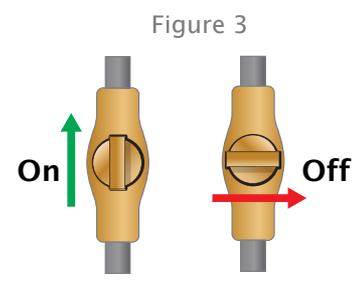


Figure 4

Typical water use

Indoors:

- Toilet flush, 1 to 8 gallons per flush
- Showering, 1.5 to 5 gallons per minute
- Bathtub, 30.4 to 50 gallons per full tub
- Washing machine, 45 to 50 gallons per cycle
- Dishwasher, 40 to 55 gallons per cycle
- Kitchen faucet, 2 to 3 gallons per minute
- Bathroom faucet, 2 to 3 gallons per minute

Outdoors:

- Car washing approximately 106 gallons per car
- Lawn watering 3 to 9.25 gallons per minute



Midway Water System
Clean Safe Smart