

How much water do you use?

Inside the Home

Running the tap.....2-5 gallons per minute
Taking a shower.....2-5 gallons per minute
Taking a bath.....20-60 gallons per bath
(more for large tubs)

Flushing the toilet.....1.6-3.5 gallons
Running a dish washer.....10-20 gallons

Washing a full load of clothes

Top load washers.....30-45 gallons
High-efficiency front-load washers13- 25 gallons

Outside the Home

Running garden hoses 5-10 gallons/minute

Watering 1,000 square feet of grass

In the summer.....850 gallons/week
In the late fall/early spring400 gallons/week
(No irrigation required during the rainy season.)

Watering 100 square feet of low-water-use shrubs

In the summer.....450 gallons /week
In the late fall/early spring200 gallons/week
(No irrigation required during the rainy season.)

How you can conserve water

Reading and understanding your water meter is an important way to use water wisely.

- Monitor your daily, monthly and seasonal water use
- Detect hidden leaks that may be silent
- Reduce water waste
- Turn off your irrigation during periods of rain
- Adjust irrigation schedules frequently to match seasonal weather changes

Please contact us if you have any additional questions.



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Learn How to Read Your Water Meter



Troubleshoot Potential Plumbing Problems and Conserve Water



By monitoring your water usage, you will save money and conserve our precious resource.

How to read your water meter by the numbers

1. Locate your meter

Water meters are usually located near the curb in front of the house or place of business. They are below ground housed in a box usually marked **Water**. Carefully remove the meter box lid and visually examine the area around the meter to ensure your safety (spiders are known to nest in meter boxes). A cap is installed to cover the face of the meter. If it is down, lift the cap to see the face of the meter.

2. Read your meter

Reading a water meter is similar to reading an automobile odometer. Most meters have a six-digit number on the face called the readout (see illustration). This shows the total number of cubic feet used since the meter was installed. Water passing through the meter turns the sweephand and revolves the readout numbers. One complete rotation of the sweephand equals one cubic foot of water used.

Readout

NOTE: MCWD charges for water use by the one hundred cubic feet (HCF), or units of water used. This is the third digit from the right on the readout. The last two digits on the right, which may be painted on the face of the meter, are not used to calculate units of water used.

Sweephand

Low-flow Indicator

3. Calculate your water use

To calculate your water use, record the number appearing on the face of the meter along with the time and date. A day or two later, read your meter again. Subtract the first reading from the second to find how much water was used during that time. For example:

Second reading	515,0(00) HCF
First reading	<u>-514,5(00)</u> HCF
Water used	5(00) HCF or 5 units

4. Monitor your water use

You will find a graph showing your water usage history on your monthly bill. You can compare your water use monthly, seasonally or yearly. If your household water use changes in any way (e.g. new family member, irrigation or plumbing changes), you will be able to monitor the effects of that change.

5. Checking for leaks

The little triangle or spoked wheel on the face of the meter is the low-flow indicator. Even when water flows are low, it will rotate. To check for leaks, turn off all water sources inside and outside the building. (If you have an automatic ice maker, make sure it is not in operation.) When all water is turned off, the low-flow indicator should not move. If the low-flow indicator is moving, there is water flowing somewhere on your property. Turn off the shut-off valve (usually located near the water pipe going inside the building).

If the low-flow indicator stops moving when the valve is off, there must be a leak somewhere inside the home. Listening carefully at each interior fixture can help pinpoint any leaks. Suspected toilet leaks can be confirmed by adding food coloring to the water in the tank. If the dye travels into the toilet bowl after several minutes, then you know you have a leaking flapper valve.

