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 washers: 13-25 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 spring: 400 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 spring: 200 gallons/week (No irrigation required during the rainy season.)

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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.
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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second reading</th>
<th>515,0 (00) HCF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First reading</td>
<td>-514,5 (00) HCF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water used</td>
<td>5 (00) HCF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.