

How to Read Your Meter



LOCATE YOUR WATER METER

Your meter is usually located in a concrete box labeled "WATER" near the street or sidewalk. Some meters have wires attached to the lid for the antenna, so use a tool or screwdriver to lift the lid slowly and gently. Keep an eye out for spiders as they are known to nest in meter boxes.



READ YOUR WATER METER

Most meters have a six-digit odometer that tracks the total amount of water used in cubic feet since the meter was installed. The numbers keep a running total of all the water that has passed through the meter. Each full revolution of the **large sweep hand** indicates that one cubic foot of water (7.48 gallons) has passed through the meter. The markings at the outer edge of the dial indicate tenths and hundredths of one cubic foot.



MONITOR YOUR WATER USE

Pick a starting point and record the odometer read and date. At a later point, read it again and subtract the first odometer read from the second to find out how much water was used. Do this on a regular basis to track your water use, and keep a record of all readings so you can detect trends.



CHECK FOR HOUSEHOLD LEAKS

The small blue dial is the **low-flow indicator**. It will rotate with very little water movement and detects any water moving through the meter. When you turn off all known water uses on the property (washer, faucets, etc.), the indicator should not move. If it continues to move, water is flowing somewhere on the property. Turn off the main shut-off valve (usually where the water line enters the building). If the indicator continues moving with the main valve off, water is flowing outside the building (most likely the irrigation system or a leak could also be in the pipes going from your meter to your building). If the indicator stops moving with the main valve off, water was flowing in the building (e.g. a toilet leak, a leaky pipe, etc.)



FREE WATER-WISE HOUSECALL PROGRAM

The City of Petaluma offers its customers a **FREE** Water-Wise HouseCall, a personalized program to help you use water more efficiently, and check for leaks both inside and outside your home or business. Call (707) 778-4507 or visit www.SaveWaterPetaluma.net to schedule your free HouseCall.



LARGE SWEEP HAND
LOW-FLOW INDICATOR

Calculate Water Use (sample)

1. Meter Readings:



Reading #1
Date: 7/1/18

Reading #2
Date: 7/8/18

7 # of days
between
readings

Odometer
Reading: 72670
(cubic feet)

Odometer
Reading: 72890
(cubic feet)

2. Water Use (cubic feet):

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Reading \#2: } \underline{\hspace{2cm} 72890 \hspace{2cm}} \text{ (cubic feet)} \\ \text{Reading \#1: } \underline{\hspace{2cm} 72670 \hspace{2cm}} \text{ (cubic feet)} \\ \hline = \underline{\hspace{2cm} 220 \hspace{2cm}} \text{ (cubic feet used)} \end{array}$$

3. Water Use (gallons):

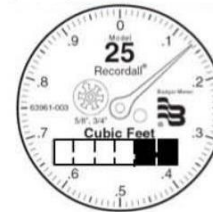
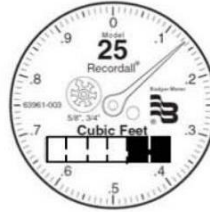
$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cubic feet used: } \underline{220} \\ \quad \times 7.48 \text{ gallons} \\ \hline = \underline{1645.6} \text{ (gallons used)} \end{array}$$

4. Average Daily Water Use:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Gallons used: } \underline{1645.6} \\ \div \underline{7} \text{ (# of days between readings)} \\ \hline = \underline{235.1} \text{ (average gallons/day)} \end{array}$$

Calculate Water Use (worksheet)

1. Meter Readings:



Reading #1
Date: _____

Reading #2
Date: _____

of days
between
readings

Odometer
Reading: _____
(cubic feet)

Odometer
Reading: _____
(cubic feet)

2. Water Use (cubic feet):

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Reading \#2: } \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ (cubic feet)} \\ \text{Reading \#1: } \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ (cubic feet)} \\ \hline = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ (cubic feet used)} \end{array}$$

3. Water Use (gallons):

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cubic feet used: } \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \quad \times 7.48 \text{ gallons} \\ \hline = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ (gallons used)} \end{array}$$

4. Average Daily Water Use:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Gallons used: } \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \div \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ (# of days between readings)} \\ \hline = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ (average gallons/day)} \end{array}$$