

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

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## Reading Your Water Meter

Meter readings are progressive in nature. That is, as water is used, the numbers on the dial will progressively increase. To find out how much water was used since your last billing, subtract the reading on your last bill from the reading you take. Remember, for billing purposes, we record usage in 100 cubic feet. There are 748 gallons of water in 100 cubic feet. Each sweep of a 5/8" meter is 100 cubic feet.

## How Much Water Are You Using?

A major use for water during many months of the year is outside irrigation. By turning on your sprinkler and watching the dial for one minute, you can determine how many gallons are recorded. Then, multiply this gallon figure times the number of minutes you leave the sprinkler running and you will know exactly how much water is used for irrigation at any given time. An alternative is to read the meter just before and after irrigation watering. The same results can be obtained. These methods can also be used in determining how much water is used for any other purpose such as showering, clothes washing, etc.

By knowing how much water you use for what purpose, you may find ways to conserve, which not only helps in water preservation, but also saves you money.



## LEAK DETECTION

Although most water leaks can be heard or seen, some are difficult to detect. If your water bill is unusually high and you are unable to find any noticeable leaks at faucets, toilets, and outside taps, you can use your water meter to check for leaks.

- You will need to know where your water meter is located and how to read it. Shut off all water taps and water sources inside and outside your home.
- If the small black triangle is moving (shown black in meter above) there is a leak.
- Once you have determined there is a leak, you will need to do some troubleshooting to determine the cause. One of the most common places where unnoticeable leaks occur is your toilet. Leaking toilets, even a silent leak, will waste 30 to 500 gallons of water per day!

If you can not determine the cause of the leak or if the leak is not easily fixable, you may need to call a plumber.