



The City of Worcester

Department of Public Works

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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.

One "unit" of usage on your bill (CCF) = 100 cubic feet.

There are 748 gallons of water in 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 CCFs are recorded. Then, multiply this CCFs 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. These methods can also be used in determining how much water is used for any other purpose such as 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.



(Sensus Meter)



(Neptune Meter)



(Badger Meter)

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.

- Shut off all water sources inside and outside your home so that no water is being used.
- All meters have leak detection built into them. Determine which style meter you have based on the images above. And if all water is shut off, then none of the below should occur.
 - Sensus Meter – if the small black triangle spins or slightly vibrates, there is a leak
 - Neptune Meter – if a small faucet icon appears in the digital read out (remember to activate screen with a flashlight), there is a leak (flashing – intermittent leak. Not flashing – continuous leak)
 - Badger Meter – if the small blue wheel spins or slightly vibrates, there is a leak
- If you see **any movement** of the leak detector, 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.

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.

Meters are built to slow down as they age or encounter any problems. They will not run "too fast".