



How to Read Your Water Meter

Helpful Steps for Residential Water Customers

STEP 1: Locate Your Meter

Water meters are generally located near the curb in front of your home, in a direct line with your main outside faucet. In some cases, the meter may be located somewhere else on the property. Meters are housed in a concrete box usually marked "water".

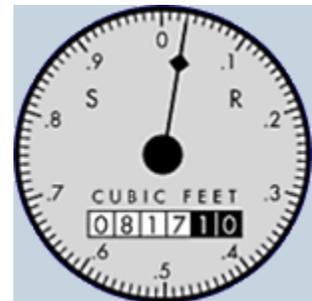
Carefully remove the lid by using a tool such as a large screwdriver. Insert the tool into the hole and lift the lid off. Please, do not use your fingers. Visually examine the area around the meter to make sure there are no harmful insects or other animals.

STEP 2: Read Your Water Meter

All customers within the City of Del Mar have their water use measured by a meter.

City of Del Mar meters measure water in cubic feet (one cubic foot equals approximately 7.48 gallons). Charges for the amount of water consumed are based on the number of units (one unit equals 100 cubic feet or approximately 748 gallons) used during a billing period.

The majority of the City's meters are the straight-reading meter, which resembles an odometer in a car. In the meter shown, the reading is taken from figures shown under the words CUBIC FEET. The meter reads 81710.03, which is the total number of cubic feet of water recorded *since the meter was installed*. Since the water is billed for in units of 100 cubic feet, the meter would be read as 817 units.



STEP 3: Tracking Your Consumption

- To learn how much water you use in a day, read your meter at the beginning and end of a day. Compare the two reads to tell how much water was used.
- To check for leaks, turn-off all water-use in your house, including faucets, water-using appliances, and the ice maker in your freezer. Check your meter. The white triangle in the middle of the dial will spin if any water is flowing through the meter. This indicator can be useful in leak detection. Leave the water off for 15 minutes, then recheck your meter. If the numbers on the dial changed or the leak indicator is still turning, chances are you have a leak. Many plumbers can assist with leak detection.
- To learn how much water your irrigation system regularly uses, turn-off all indoor water use, check your meter, then run the irrigation system as you normally would (same stations; same length of time). Reread the meter when complete. Calculate the difference between the initial meter read and the ending read; multiply by 748 to convert to gallons.

If you have any questions about maintaining your meter or need help locating your water meter, please call the City's Finance Department Utility Billing Desk at (858) 704-3655.