

How to Read Your Meter

Units of Measure

Your meter registers in cubic feet, not in gallons. Each cubic foot equals 7.48 gallons. You are billed in increments called "billing units," which equal 100 cubic feet (or 748 gallons) of water. Look at your monthly water bill to find the number of billing units you have used since the last billing.

Reading the Meter

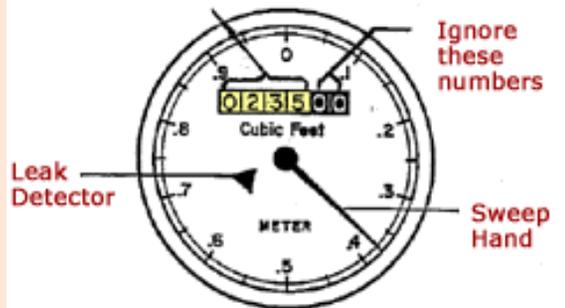
The register on your water meter reads very much like the odometer on a car. On most of our meters, the last two digits on the right side are a different color from the rest of the numbers on the gauge and are not read by our meter readers. You don't need to worry about them, either.

The next series of numbers to the left is the number of billing units (the number of 100 cubic foot increments of water) that have passed through the meter.

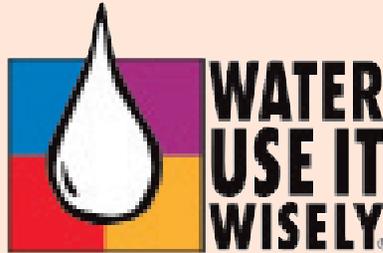
In the illustration, the meter shows that 235 billing units of water have passed through the meter. To determine the number of units of water that have been used, subtract the number shown in a previous reading from the current number.



Read these numbers



There are a number of ways to save water...



...and they all start with you.

www.usewaterwisely.org

Frequently asked questions regarding household water pressure

Eastern Municipal Water District

Household Water Pressure



2270 Trumble Rd.
Perris, CA 92572
951.928.3777

www.emwd.org



www.emwd.org

About Your Household Water Pressure...

Eastern Municipal Water District often receives questions from customers about household water pressure. Here are some answers to the frequently asked questions:

Q: What is “normal” water pressure?

A: Pressure can vary depending on the elevation of your household and the facilities that serve water in your area. According to standard plumbing code, 80 PSI (pounds per square inch) is the maximum pressure for indoor plumbing fixtures.

Q: How can I check my water pressure?

A: If you have experienced problems and would like to measure your water pressure, you can purchase a pressure gauge at a hardware

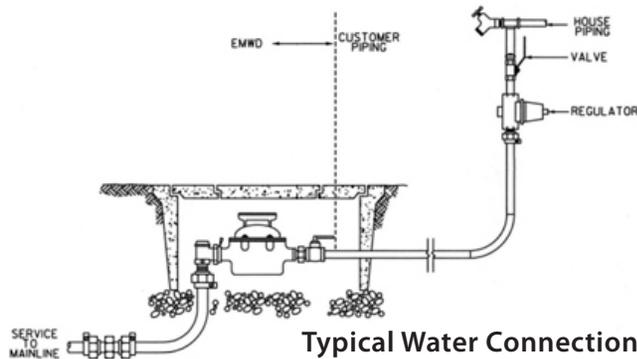
store for around \$10. Measure at hose bibs in several areas, with and without water flowing inside the house. A drop of 5 pounds is generally acceptable, any more can be a sign of a problem.

Q: Why does my water pressure change?

A: Water pressure is generally higher in the early morning before the majority of people wake up and start showering, washing clothes, and watering lawns.

Q: How can elevation affect water pressure?

A: Water storage tanks are located at higher elevations to allow water to flow by gravity through EMWD’s distribution system. Since elevations vary throughout EMWD’s service area, your water pressure may also vary. Generally, the closer your home is to the elevation of the tank, the lower your water pressure will be compared to homes much lower in elevation.



Typical Water Connection

Gravity flow is the most efficient method to deliver water to homes. However, in flatter areas, water may require pumping to be delivered to homes.

Q: How can mineral deposits affect my water pressure?

A: Mineral deposits from hard water can clog hose and faucet filters that carry water to your washer, shower heads, faucet aerators and landscape irrigation parts. The deposits are not harmful and can easily be removed by soaking the filter in vinegar periodically.

Q: What’s a pressure regulator and what does it do?

A: Some areas may have higher water pressure which can cause household appliances to not function properly. In those areas, pressure regulators are installed in compliance with local building codes. A pressure regulator provides protection to your house from unexpected water pressure surges that can occur due to construction or normal water system maintenance.

Q: Can I adjust my pressure regulator?

A: Residents with greater than 80 psi are required by the standard plumbing code to install a pressure regulator prior to the water entering a house to protect indoor plumbing fixtures. Customers may adjust pressure regulators to their own preferred setting, but in no instance to a pressure higher than 80 psi.

Q: What should I do if I think I have a leak?

A: An undetected leak may cause a loss in water pressure. To check for a leak, turn off all water faucets and water-using appliances on your property, indoors and out. When you are done, locate your meter box (usually at the front of your property) and look at the sweep hand or the diamond/triangle. If they are moving, there is water passing through your meter, and that means either you’ve forgotten to turn something off, or you have a leak on your side of the meter. EMWD does not repair leaks on your side of the meter. That is your responsibility. You may wish to call a plumber, because hidden leaks can be very expensive.

NOTE:

If low pressure has existed for days, weeks, or longer, it is usually a problem with a fixture or other parts of the private plumbing system. EMWD recommends contacting a plumber.

Common Factors That Affect Water Pressure

- Elevation and pressure zone
- Faulty adjustment or blockage of the pressure regulator
- Water leak on the customer’s property
- Time of water use during the day
- Mineral deposits inside pipes and hoses causing constricted flow
- Simultaneous household appliance water use
- Landscape irrigation scheduling, valve and sprinkler design
- Recent plumbing modifications
- Emergency repairs, fires, construction, power outages, or scheduled system improvements in your area

Customers experiencing any permanent, significant drop in water pressure should report it to EMWD immediately. Emergencies may be reported to EMWD’s Integrated Operations Center 24-hours a day at (951) 928-3777 ext. 6265