

HOW TO: Read Your Water Meter



Some of our customers like to occasionally read their own water meters, either to see how much water they have been using during a particular period or to double check their bill.

FINDING YOUR WATER METER

Your water meter is housed inside of a concrete box in the ground, generally located near the sidewalk or curb in front of your property. However, the meter may be located to the side of the property, in a planter, alley or even on a completely different street location in some of our older, remote and rural areas.

When reading your water meter please remember:

- Be careful when opening the water meter lid, make sure you do not dislocate wires from the antenna on the lid.
- If your meter box is full of water, drain the water and check for leak(s).
- If the leak is coming from the side of the meter that is closest to the street, then it is EMWD's responsibility.
- If the leak is on the side of the meter that is past the customer shut-off valve, then it is the customers responsibility.
- To report a leak, please call (951) 698-0400 ext. 6265

QUICK TIPS

- Your water meter measures in cubic feet not gallons.
- 1 cubic foot = 7.48 gallons.
- 1 billing unit = 100 cubic feet (748 gallons).
- 1 Acre foot = 325,900 gallons
Enough water to meet the needs of two households a year.



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READING THE METER

Identify the type of meter installed at your property

EMWD has implemented a variety of automated meters. These meters are read using radio cell technology known as Advanced Metering Interface or AMI. In order to read your meter manually the first step is determining what type of water meter has been installed at your home or business. The pictures below illustrate the different types of water meters that EMWD has installed throughout our service area.

Analog meters: 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. Meter readers do not read the last two numbers on these meters. The next series of numbers to the left is the number of billing units that have passed through the meter.



The 4 dials left to right appear on the water bill. The fourth dial is the first billing unit. The red dial is the leak indicator.

Digital meters: The registers have 9 digits on the face. These last five digits on the right side measure from 1/1000 cubic feet to 10 cubic feet. The next series of numbers to the left is the number of billing units that have passed through the meter. Those are the numbers used to calculate your usage.



The 5 dials left to right appear on the water bill. The 5th dial is the first billing unit or BU. The rate of flow when water is measuring on the meter can be seen in the upper left and is measured in gallons per minute. The leak indicator is in the upper center of the register and will show an arrow with a (+) symbol for positive registration or an arrow with a (-) symbol for negative registration.



The 4 dials left to right appear on the water bill. The 4th dial is the first billing unit or BU. The leak indicator is the far right dial and will be advancing when water is being measured on the meter.