

# How to Read Your Water Meter

Knowing how to read your water meter can help you detect leaks and monitor your water consumption used on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

## Finding the Meter

Your water meter is generally located near the curb in front of your home or place of business in a direct line with the main outside faucet. However, it may be in another location near your home. It is housed in a concrete box usually marked "water".

## Accessing the Meter

Carefully remove the lid by using a tool such as a large screwdriver. Please, do not use your fingers. Insert the tool into one of the holes and pry the lid off. Visually examine the area around the meter to make sure there are no harmful insects or other animals. Please, **never** touch the valve on the Edison side of the meter.

## Reading the Meter

1. Observe that the water meter has one dial with a sweep hand and scale numbered from 1 to 0 (0 also represents 10). Each revolution of the sweep hand equals 10 gallons of water through the meter.
2. Refer to the horizontally displayed numbers in the mechanical odometer to read the total revolutions of the sweep hand and the total number of gallons through the meter.



3. Read the mechanical odometer numbers from left to right. The meter shown in the image reads 489,450 gallons.
4. Notice that the last number on the far right is fixed at zero. The actual value of this field is shown by the sweep hand, which measures individual gallons. In the meter shown in the photo, the sweep hand reads 4.4 gallons, making the exact number of gallons through the meter 489,454.4 gallons.
5. To calculate your water usage, read the odometer and write it down completely. Then write down the date you read it. After a period of days, read the odometer again and write it down.
6. Subtract the first reading from the second reading. This is your water use in gallons during the period.

**Example:** On June 1, your odometer reading is 489,454.4 gallons.

On June 8, your odometer reading is 489,664.4 gallons.

So, during that 7 day period, your household used 210 gallons of water, or 30 gallons per day.