



# How To Read Your Water Meter

Scotts Valley Water District reads your water meter bi-monthly in order to determine your water use and bill. You too can read your water meter which can help you to:

- Monitor your water usage
- Determine if you have a possible water leak

## Locate Your Water Meter Box



In most cases, the water meter box is located at the front of the property, near the street. It is in a large concrete box labeled 'WATER.'

To view the water meter, open the small metal plate located in the center of the box. If the water meter is not able to be read this way, you can remove the entire concrete lid. A tool such as a large screwdriver can help with this.

NOTE: Remember to use **extreme caution** when opening your water meter box. The lid can be very heavy and you may require assistance in order to lift it. Also, look out for Black Widow Spiders and other insects, which are known to nest in meter boxes.

## Reading Your Water Meter

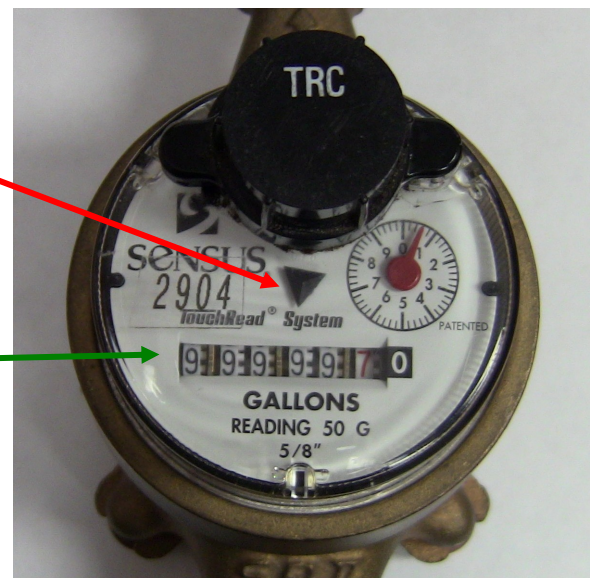
If you are a residential customer, your water meter might look like the meter pictured below. Some water meters are slightly different than the one pictured. The two key features of all water meters are the **Flow Indicator** and the **Meter Register**.

### Flow Indicator

The flow indicator will rotate whenever water flows through the water meter, even when water flow is very slight. The speed of the flow indicator corresponds to the speed of flow of water. This can be used to detect if there is a leak on your property.

### Meter Register

The meter register records the amount of water that flows through the meter. Some meters, like the one pictured here, have a place holder indicated by a zero at the right most point of the register. SVWD measures water usage in gallons to the tens place.





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## Monitoring your water usage

The following steps will show you how to determine your water usage over a specific period of time. Use the worksheet to the right to record your data and calculate your daily water usage.

1. Read the meter register and write the number down completely. Record the date as well.
2. After a period of time has passed (a week, for example) read and record the meter register number and the date again.
3. Subtract your first reading from your second. This is your water usage during that time period.
4. Divide this number by the number of days between the readings.

The resulting number is an approximate of the daily water usage at that residence. Daily water usage should be between 80-100 gallons *per person* — see how low you can go!

	1. Reading #1	Reading #2	# of days
	2. Date		between
	_____	_____	readings
	Meter Register #		<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	_____	
	(gallons)	(gallons)	
	3. Reading #2	Reading #1	
	_____	_____	
		—	
	= _____	(gallons used)	
	4. Gallons used	# of days	
	_____	between readings	
		÷ _____	
	= _____	Daily water usage	
		(gallons)	

## Checking for leaks

On average, water leaks can cause 10,000 gallons of water to be wasted in an American household per year. You can utilize your water meter to help check if there is a leak occurring at your residence. Make sure no water is being used inside or outside the residence (icemaker, clothes washer, showers, sprinklers, etc.). Once you are sure that everything is off and not running, locate your water meter box and carefully remove the cover. Find the **Flow Indicator** on the water meter. This will either look like a black triangle located at the center of the water meter, or a red circle with a black line located at the lower right side of the water meter. If the flow indicator is rotating, even slightly, you may have a leak.

### I think I may have a leak — now what?

The first step would be to try and identify where the water leak is occurring. Turning off specific water valves can help to locate the leak. Common leaks are found in faucets, sprinkler systems, and toilets. A leaking toilet is one of the most common leaks found, and can waste 200 gallons of water or more per day. SVWD offers FREE toilet leak detector tablets. Fixing a leak should be done promptly in order to save water and money. Certain leaks *may* be eligible for a leak adjustment on your water bill.

**For more information contact us at (831) 438-2363 or online at [www.svwd.org](http://www.svwd.org)**