

HOW MUCH WATER IS USED?

INSIDE THE HOME:

Running the tap.....	1.5-6 gallons per minute
Taking a shower.....	2-7 gallons per minute
Taking a bath.....	20-60 gallons per bath
Washing a full load of clothes.....	15-60 gallons per load
Flushing the toilet.....	1.28-7 gallons per flush
Running an automatic dishwasher.....	11-14 gallons per load

OUTSIDE THE HOME:

Running the hose.....	5-10 gallons per minute
Watering 1,000 square feet of grass...	
In summer.....	850 gallons per week
In fall.....	400 gallons per week
Watering 1,000 square feet of shrubs...	
In summer.....	450 gallons per week
In fall.....	200 gallons per week
Watering a mature fruit tree (15' canopy)...	
In summer.....	131 gallons per week
In fall.....	41 gallons per week

READING and understanding your water meter is an important part of using our water resources efficiently and effectively.

MONITOR water use as closely as you like: daily, monthly, or seasonally.

DETECT leaks that may be silent or invisible.

JOIN all of Westborough Water District in using our water resources efficiently and effectively.

For more information regarding water conservation programs offered by the Westborough Water District, please contact us:

Westborough Water District
2263 Westborough Boulevard
South San Francisco, CA 94080
(650) 589-1435
Or visit our website at
www.westboroughwater.com

How To Read Your Westborough Water District Water Meter



 **Westborough
Water District**

Rain or Shine, There's Never Enough Water to Waste!

TO READ YOUR METER FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS

1. LOCATE YOUR METER

The water meter is usually located near the curb in front of the house or place of business. It is in the ground housed in a concrete box marked WATER.

Carefully remove the meter box lid using a tool such as a screwdriver. The meters have wires attached to the lid for the antenna. Remove the lid slowly and gently to avoid breaking the wires. Visually examine the area around the meter to ensure your safety. (Black widow spiders are known to nest in meter boxes.)

2. READ YOUR METER

Reading a water meter is similar to reading an automobile odometer. There are two styles of TouchRead meters. Style A has an eight-digit number on the face. Style B has a six-digit number on the face called the readout (see illustration). This shows the total number of units used, as well as partial units.

Example Style A: 0,002,124.3
The reading is 2 units

Example Style B: 0785.3354
The reading is 785 units

3. FIGURE YOUR WATER USE

To calculate your water use, pick a starting point at which to read your meter. Record the reading and date. Read the meter 24 hours later. Subtract the first reading from the second, this will give you your usage in hundred cubic feet or units. Each unit is equal to 748 gallons. Multiply by sixty (60 days per billing period) to approximate your water usage for one billing period.

For Example:

Second Reading..... 1618.6721

First Reading..... 1618.5421

Total Units..... $0.13 \times 60 = 7.8$ units

Total Gallons..... 5,834

Note: The Westborough Water District charges for water by the unit (100 cubic feet or HCF). Each unit (HCF) consists of 748 gallons.

ILLUSTRATION



4. MONITOR YOUR WATER USE

Read your meter on a regular basis to track your water use and keep a record of all readings. You will be able to detect trends from season to season and year to year. If your household changes in any way that affects water use (e.g., new family member, plumbing upgrade, etc.), you will be able to determine the change.

5. CHECK FOR HOUSEHOLD LEAKS

The little triangle or red wheel on the face of the meter is a low flow indicator. It will rotate with even a very low flow through the meter (i.e., leaky toilet or irrigation valve). To check for leaks, turn off all known water uses inside and outside the house. If you have an automatic icemaker, make sure it is not operating. When all water is turned off, the low flow indicator should not move. If the low flow indicator is moving, there is water flowing somewhere on your property. Try turning off the house shut-off valve (usually located where the water line enters the house). If the low flow indicator continues moving with the house valve off, water is flowing outside the house (most likely the irrigation system). If the low flow indicator stops moving with the house valve off, water was flowing inside the house. (This could be a toilet leak, a leaky pipe, or any number of problems.) When you have finished reading the meter, carefully replace the meter box lid.



Every Drop Counts!