



CITY OF REDDING UTILITIES

How to Read Your Water Meter

By keeping track of water meter reads over a given period of time, you can identify when high water use occurs, which can assist in determining where the greatest opportunity for water savings lies. Becoming aware of overall water use involves keeping track of the readings on the water meter. If there are several water meters near your location, yours will be labeled with the “Meter Number” that matches what is clearly marked on your utility bill.

Follow the steps below to determine your water usage:

Step 1 – Locate your water meter.

Water meters are typically located in a small concrete box in the front of the property near the street or behind the curb. Often, the box is in a direct line with the main outside faucet, and is marked “WATER”.

Step 2 – Lift the metal lid or remove the concrete cover.

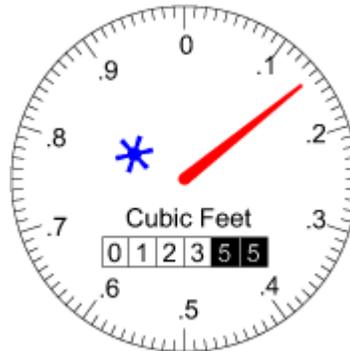
Using a screwdriver or similar tool, carefully insert it into one of the holes in the cover. Lift the metal lid, or carefully remove the concrete cover and carefully set it aside. The meter should be visible inside the box.

CAUTION: *Be careful of insects, especially spiders, that often make their home inside the water meter box. Remember to lower the lid or replace the cover securely when you are finished to avoid trip and fall injuries.*

Step 3 – Read your water meter.

Lift the protective cap on the water meter.

On the face of the meter there is a large dial and a display of numbers. A typical odometer type meter functions and reads exactly like the mileage odometer in most cars. Write down the numbers, ignoring any numbers with a black background. In the example, the read is **123 CCF**.



Water usage is measured in 100 Cubic Feet (CCF), where one CCF is equivalent to 748 gallons. To calculate the amount of water consumed, record the read of the meter (including the black digits, which indicate a decimal portion of 1 CCF) at the beginning of the time period being measured. At the end of the time period being measured, record the read on the meter again. The difference between the two reads is the amount of water consumed. To find the number of gallons of water used between the two readings, multiply the use by 748.

Once you have determined the water used, multiply the number of CCFs by the cost per CCF. Visit our Rates Page to find the current cost per CCF. Making notes of any high-water consumption activity that occurred during the time frame measured (i.e. laundry, lawn watering, filling of swimming pools, etc.) will give you an idea of what causes your water use and how much those items are costing. Repeat these steps as often as you like in order to track your water usage.

TIP: *If you suspect you have a water leak, turn off all water taps in your home or business and then go check your water meter. Observe the large meter sweep hand location on the meter face and wait 15 minutes and check the meter again. If the sweep-hand has moved or the meter reading has changed, this indicates that water is passing through the meter. Many meters will also have a leak detector (a blue star or red arrow) that will turn if any amount of water is passing through the meter. If you see the meter running, you may have a leak in your plumbing.*

If you need help reading your meter, please contact the City of Redding Water Utility at (530) 224-6068.