



# How to Read Your Water Meter

## Facts to know about your water meter

**MHOG Utilities reads your water meter every three months to determine your water use and water bill. You can also use this meter to:**

- ✓ **Monitor your water use**
- ✓ **Watch for water leaks**

## Anatomy of the Meter

Locate your water meter in your basement or home's crawlspace.

Most meters look like the one pictured to the right. This is a new meter and is currently reading 13.9 gallons.

**Low Flow Indicator:** This dial (Low Flow Indicator) will rotate when water passes through the meter. One full rotation of the dial equals 1 gallon of water. The Low Flow Indicator will rotate with very little water movement. Any water moving through the meter is detected so even small leaks will register.

**Odometer:** The odometer records total water use in a similar way as the odometer in your car records miles driven. The water meter odometer records water use in gallons and displays as follows: The digits from right to left represent 1/10<sup>th</sup> of gallon, 1 gallon, 10 gallons, 100 gallons, 1000 gallons and so on. Like a car odometer, the water meter odometer cannot be altered.

**How to Monitor Your Water Use – The following steps will show you how to determine how much water you use over a period of time.**

- Read the odometer and write it down completely. Then write down the date you read it. After a period of days (we suggest 7 days) read the odometer and write the read and the date read down.
- Subtract your first read from the second. This is your water usage for the period. Example 0066013.9 – 0056013.9 = 10,000
- The 10,000 figure indicates that 10,000 gallons of water have been used during the time period between the two reads. The average residential customer uses about 7,000 gallons per month.



## How to use your water meter to help detect leaks

- Make sure no water is being used inside or outside (no clothes washer filling, no shower running, no water outdoors, etc.).
- Locate your water meter.
- Find the low flow indicator (as shown in the above picture). If all of your water sources are off and the low flow indicator is rotating, you may have a leak. Leaks can waste thousands of gallons of water in just a few days. It pays to fix leaks promptly.

A small leak, about the size of the head of a pin, dripping at one drop per second can add up to 7 gallons of water per day. A large leak, the kind most often found in toilets, can waste 200 gallons of water or more per day!

Check out the following link to help you when you suspect a leak:

<http://www.genoa.org/articles/article/highwaterbill>

If you have any questions, just give us a call at 800-881-4109 or 810-227-5225.



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