

BELLA VISTA WATER DISTRICT

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FACT SHEET - HOW TO READ YOUR WATER METER

Bella Vista Water District reads your water meter every other month to determine your water use and bill. You can also use your meter to monitor your own usage and to check for water leaks.

Locate your Water Meter

Meters are inside a concrete box with the word "water" marked on the lid. Meters are usually located at the front of the property near the street. In some cases, our customers in outlying areas can have the meter located in the rear of their property.

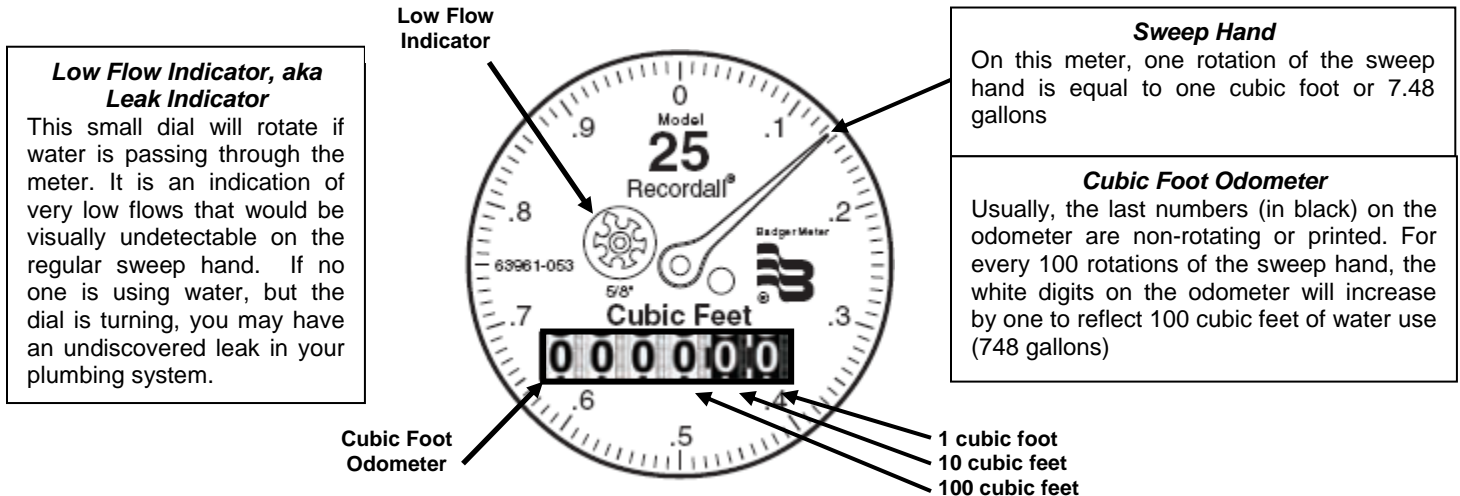
How to Read the Water Meter

Remove the concrete lid of the water meter box. Inside you will find a meter similar to the one shown in Figure 1. Once inside the meter box, lift the lid covering the face of the meter register. If register lens is dirty, a light wipe with a damp cloth will clear lens for an accurate reading. Always remember to close the register cover after reading meter to avoid exposure to cracking or scratching of lens.



Figure 1

The meter below is an example of what most of our water meters look like. The numeric dials rotate when water passes through the meter. One full rotation of the sweep hand equals one cubic foot of water. The odometer records total water usage similar to how a car records mileage. The water meter odometer records water use in cubic feet. The digits right to left represent 1 cubic foot, 10 cubic feet, 100 cubic feet, and so on. When the meter is read for billing, all the numbers from left to right are recorded, however are billed in hundreds of cubic feet (HCF) only.



How to Monitor Your Water Use

Use these steps to measure your water usage over a period of time.

1. Read the odometer and write down all the numbers from left to right and list the date it was read. After a period of time, read the odometer again and list the reading and date.
2. Subtract the first reading from the second reading. This is your water usage in cubic feet.
3. To convert your usage into gallons, multiply the usage by 7.48.
4. To get a daily average of usage in gallons, divide the total usage by the number of days between readings.

How to Check for Leaks

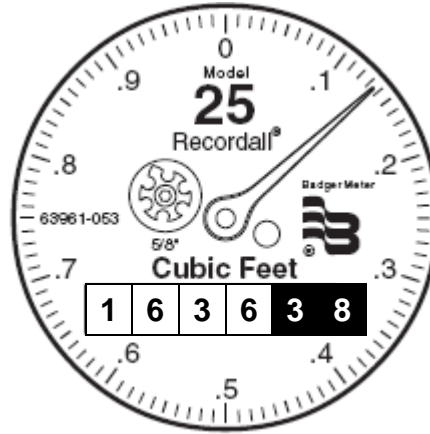
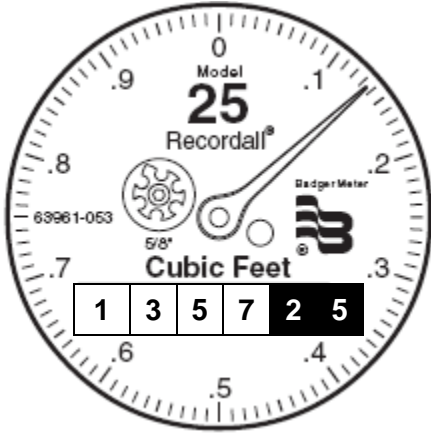
If your water usage seems higher than normal, you can monitor your meter for leaks. A leak as small as a pencil lead, at a pressure rate of 40 psi, can result in usage of 8,000 gallons (1,070 cf) per day. To check for leaks, turn all water off indoors and outdoors. This includes any devices such as ice makers, washing machines, sprinklers, etc. Once water is off, and the low flow indicator is moving, this may indicate there is a leak. If the meter shows no obvious movement, note the reading and return in a few hours to see if there has been any change. If any water is used during that time, the meter reading will change. If you find that there is movement on the meter when there should not be, this may be an indication of a leak. Check all appliances (dishwasher, clothes washer, ice machine), faucets, toilets, pool system, irrigation system and

any other water systems for possible leaks. If possible, close section valves to isolate portions of the system and determine the section with the leak.

If you need assistance locating your meter, contact the District office at (530) 241-1085 during normal business hours.

Calculate Water Usage (Sample)

1. Meter Readings:



Reading #1

Date: 7/1/10

Odometer Reading: 1357.25
cubic feet

Reading #2

Date: 7/5/10

Odometer Reading: 1636.38
cubic feet

Days Between

Readings: 4

2. Water Use (Cubic Feet):

Reading #2: 1636.38 (cubic feet)

Reading #1: - 1357.25 (cubic feet)

= 279.13 (cubic feet used)

3. Water Use (gallons):

Cubic Feet Used: 279.13 x 7.48 gallons = 2087.90 gallons used

4. Average Daily Water Use:

Gallons Used: 2087.90

÷ 4 (# of days between readings)

= 521.98 (average gallons per day)

÷ 24 (hours per day)

= 21.75 (gallons per hour)