

How to read your meter:

There are several reasons why you'd want to be able to locate and read your water meter. First, you might be interested in just how much water you use in a day. By reading your meter at the beginning and the end of the day you can compare the two totals tell how much water you and your family used. The second reason is to check for leaks. If you turn off all the taps in your house, look at your meter and it is still turning, chances are you have a leak somewhere. Here are some hints to help you find and read your water meter.

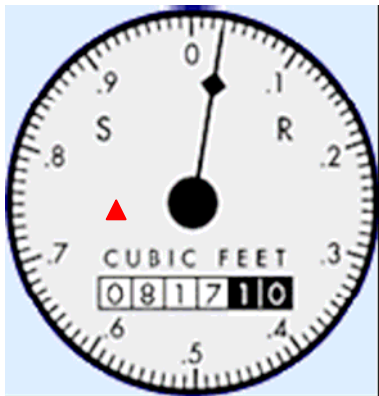
Locate Your Meter

Your water meter is generally located near the curb in front of your home although occasionally the meter may be located in another area. You can call 707-822-5951 for assistance if you cannot locate your meter. Meters are typically housed in a concrete box usually marked "water" or in a meter pit with a cast iron lid. Carefully remove the lid by using a tool such as a large screwdriver or pliers. Visually examine the area around the meter to make sure there are no harmful insects or other animals.

Water Meter units

Water meters in the City of Arcata measure in cubic feet. One cubic foot = 7.48 gallons and 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons. Water charges are typically based on 100 cubic feet.

How to Read a Meter



The meter face pictured to the left is typical of meters in Arcata. The white dials with black numbers (0817) are the dials read for billing. These dials represent units of 100 cubic feet and above. The black dials with white numbers (10) are units less than 100 cubic feet and are not read for billing. In this case the reading on the meter would be 817 hundred cubic feet. This should show on your bill as 817.

A small red or blue triangle on the face of the meter is the low flow indicator. That triangle will spin if any water is flowing through the meter. This indicator can be useful in leak detection. If the triangle is moving even though all faucets in and around the house are off then water is moving through the meter. This would indicate that there is a break in the line or that something is still on.