

## How to: Locate & Read Your Water Meter

There are several reasons why a customer may want to locate and read their water meter such as tracking daily water use or checking for leaks.

- **Locating Your Meter:** Your water meter is generally located near the curb in front of your home or business. In some cases the meter may be located in the rear of your property. The meter is contained inside a box with either a metal, plastic or cement lid marked "water."



Metal Lid

Plastic Lid

Cement Lid

- **Removing the Lid:** Carefully remove the lid of the meter box by using a tool such as a large screwdriver. Do not use your fingers. Insert the tool into one of the holes and pry the lid up. Visually examine the area around the meter to make sure there are no harmful insects or other animals. You should see your meter inside the box.



Meter Located Inside Box

- Reading Your Meter:** Nearly all water meters currently in service in Carmichael Water District's system have a similar variation of the dials shown below. They not only look like an automobile odometer, they work like one too. One revolution of the sweep hand records one *cubic foot* of water (a cubic foot of water is 7.48 gallons). This single cubic foot of water is recorded on the right-most tumbler, just like tenths of a mile on an odometer. From there the tumblers move in multiples of ten.

The charges for water on your Utility bill reference CCF. This is the acronym used to represent one hundred cubic feet of water.

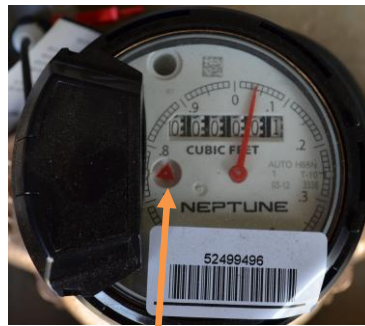
Reading your water meter is similar to reading the odometer in your car. Read all the numbers from left to right. Do not include the numbers after the decimal point or the numbers with a black background.



6 Digit Meter

7 Digit Meter

- Converting CCF to gallons:** For billing purposes, CWD measures water consumption in hundred cubic feet (CCF) every month. But you can easily calculate your usage in gallons. There are 748 gallons in one hundred cubic feet. Multiply the number of CCF by 748 gallons to determine the number of gallons used.
- Low Flow Indicator:** The small red triangle on a meter is referred to as a *low flow indicator*. Standard on meters installed in the last 8 to 10 years, its purpose is to show water flow that is too small to be seen by watching the sweep hand.



Low Flow Indicator