

# How to Read Your Meter



## Know Your Meter

If you know how to read your water meter, you can keep track of your water usage and help determine whether you have a water leak. Your meter measures your water usage in hundreds of cubic feet, or Ccf, which is the billing unit used by Cal Water to calculate your water bill. One Ccf equals 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons of water.

Most meters are located near the curb in front of your home under a concrete lid. You read your meter by simply reading the digits on the odometer from left to right, ignoring the last two (which are usually a different color). In the example on the right, the meter reads 123 Ccf.

If your water meter does not look like the one in the illustration, contact your local Cal Water Customer Center for more information.

## Checking for Leaks

To check for household leaks, turn off all the water inside and outside your home. Observe your water meter's leak indicator (shown in blue on the illustration to the right); if it moves, you either left water running somewhere or you have a leak.

## To Locate a Leak

- Look for wet spots that could indicate a leak in the pipe between the meter and your home or sprinkler system.
- Drop a dye tablet in the toilet tank. (Don't flush.) If colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking.
- Check all faucets for drips. A slow drip can waste as much as 450 gallons of water a month; a larger drip will waste much more.
- See if your pool loses an eighth of an inch or more of water a day. A pinhole-sized leak in a pool plumbing system can lose almost 1,000 gallons of water a day.

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Meter indicating 123 Ccf.  
Leak indicator is shown in blue.

## How Big is the Leak?

If it appears that you have a water leak, you can estimate how much water the leak is wasting. To do this, read your water meter at night, after your day's water use has ended. Then read the meter again in the morning, before any water is used. Subtract the first reading from the second to tell how much water you lost during the night.

## More Information

For other ways to save water, visit the Cal Water web site at [www.calwater.com/conservation](http://www.calwater.com/conservation) or contact your local Cal Water Customer Center.



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**Use water wisely.**  
**It's essential.**

