

# Meter Reading & Leak Repair

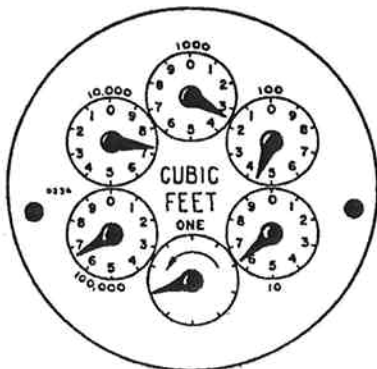
## Guideline 5

### How to read a water meter

Some meters read straight across like the odometer on your car. Remember that your meter is never reset.



Some meters are circular with five or six dials. Read each dial clockwise, starting at the 100,000 dial. If a pointer is between two figures, read the lower number.



*Did you know:* A single dripping faucet can waste far more water in a single day than one person needs for drinking in an entire week. Conserve water and save money by finding and fixing leaks.

### How to use your water meter to check for leaks

1. Locate your water meter. It is usually found in a meter box in a small concrete vault near the street. (Contact your local water utility if you need assistance locating your water meter.)
2. Turn off all water using appliances in the home. This includes all indoor and outdoor faucets.
3. Check and record the current meter reading.
4. Wait 15 minutes (minimum) although overnight is better. **Remember, do not use any water while you are waiting!**
5. Read the water meter again. If the reading has changed, then you have a leak that requires immediate attention.

### How to fix a leak

Many leaks (dripping faucets or showerheads) are caused by worn washers which are easy to fix. Your local hardware, plumbing supply or home improvement store will have the correct parts and complete do-it-yourself instructions.

If replacing the washer does not work or the problem is more complicated, contact a certified plumber for assistance.

**TIP:** Locate the master water supply valve and label it. The master supply valve can then be easily turned off in case of a leak or broken pipe.

### More Information

Office of Drinking Water  
(360) 236-3100 • 1-800-521-0323  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>



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