

How to read your water meter



Find your meter box, which is typically located in the front of your property near one of

the side property lines with your neighbor. Homes in the Highlands subdivision may have their boxes located in the easement behind the home.

The meter box will typically be a rectangular concrete box with a concrete/cast iron lid marked "water". In some areas the box may be identified by a round 18"

diameter cast iron lid marked "water meter." The TCPUD maintains records of your water box location and can be contacted for further assistance if you

cannot find your box. Carefully remove the water box lid using a large screwdriver or other tool. Please take great care in not damaging the meter, transmitter or associated wires. Those with the 18" diameter round meter box must carefully remove the bracket holding the



transmitters and then remove the large green foam plug to view the meters. These items must be properly replaced to avoid freeze damage or improper operation

Once you have the box open you will see the top of the meter; lift the protective cover to expose the meter face. On the face of the meter you will see a large dial, a small red star wheel and a set of numbers similar

to a car's odometer. The large dial typically reads gallons.



The small star wheel is used to detect leaks and minor usage. The odometer reads total gallons used. Read the odometer left to right, including the fixed zero on the far right.

Record the reading and then compare it to your latest bill, or re-read your meter within the next day or two to determine your daily consumption. If you suspect you have a leak, you will notice constant or intermittent movement in the small red star wheel. Inspect all your fixtures, toilets, faucets, hose bibs and irrigation and isolate or re-

pair as appropriate. If the star wheel continues to move, you may have a leak somewhere under ground.



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Our website will also have updates and information:

www.tahoecitypubd.com

**We very much appreciate your
patience and support!**



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How to check for a water leak

Step 1. Turn all water-using appliances off so that no water is being used. This means turning off all water inside and outside the house including showers, sinks, washing machines, and any appliance that uses water. If you have a sprinkler irrigation system, turn off the controller and manually shut off the two valves at the backflow assembly to isolate the irrigation system.

Step 2. Locate your meter box to be able to read your meter. Refer to *How to read*



your water meter pamphlet, which is enclosed for your assistance.

Step 3. Take the lid off the meter box and lift the protective cover. See *How to read your water meter* pamphlet for directions. **Watch the meter.** Your meter will have a red star wheel that is commonly called a “leak indicator.”

If it is spinning, even very slowly, you have a leak. If it is not spinning, look at the red pointer and note the number it is pointing at. Once again, make certain that all water is off and return in 10 minutes to see if the red pointer has moved. If it has moved you have a slow leak — go to step 4. If not, you do not have a leak.

Step 4. This step will help you identify possible underground leaks. Locate your main shut off valve at the house. This is often referred to as a stop and drain valve and is usually located under the house.

Step 5. Close this valve and open the nearest faucet to make sure the water is fully shut off.

Step 6. Return to your meter and observe if the red star wheel has stopped moving. Look again at the red pointer and note the number it is pointing at. Return in 10 minutes to see if the red pointer has moved. If the star wheel is moving, or the red pointer has moved in the ten minutes, you most



likely have a leak on your water line between the meter box and the house.

Please contact a local plumber to have this investigated and repaired.




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