

How to Read Your Water Meter

STEP 1: Locate Your Meter

For campus and large student housing buildings, your water meter is generally located next to the building's backflow prevention device. In private homes and some student housing, the water meters are located near the curb or inline with the exterior hose bib at the building shut off. The meter is housed in a concrete box usually marked "water". Carefully lift the lid by using a tool such as a large screwdriver. Please, do not use your fingers. Insert the tool into one of the holes and pry the lid off. Visually examine the area around the meter to make sure there are no harmful insects or other animals.

STEP 2: Read Your Water Meter

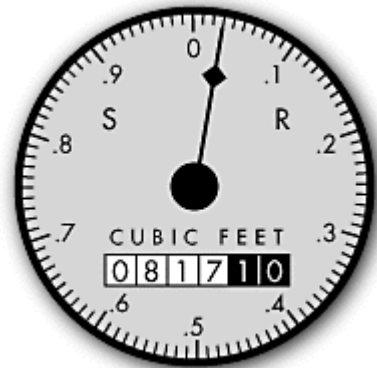
Almost all of Stanford University's buildings water use is individually metered. Some buildings are metered as part of a larger group. Stern and Wilbur are an example of this type of metering. Stern has one meter for all of the buildings. Wilbur has several meters that supply an interior loop that the buildings receive their water from.

Stanford University's meters measure water in cubic feet (one cubic foot equals 7.48 gallons).

There are two basic types of water meters – the straight-reading meter, which resembles the odometer in a car, and the round-reading meter, which has several separate dials.

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In the meter at the right, the reading is taken from the figures shown under the words CUBIC FEET. The meter reads 81,710, which is the total number of cubic feet of water recorded since the meter was installed.



So, if by the time we read your meter the next time you had used 1,200 cubic feet of water, the new reading would be 82,910 (81,710 plus 1,200). The building use in gallons is calculated by subtracting the old number (81710) from the new number (82910) and multiplying by 7.48.

$$(82910 - 81710) \times 7.48 = 8,976 \text{ Gallons}$$

It is important to note that the large sweep hand is used only for testing purposes.

Below is an example of round-reading meter, which has several separate dials. This meter style is no longer used for Stanford's water meters. It is still used by PG&E for metering many electric and gas services.

