## How to Read Your Water Meter

There are several reasons why you may want to be able to locate and read your water meter. First, you might be interested in just how much water you use in a day. By reading your meter at the beginning and the end of the day you can compare the two totals and tell how much water you and your family used. The second reason is to check for leaks.

Here are some hints to help you find and read your water meter:

## STEP 1: Locate Your Meter

Your water meter is usually located near the curb in front of your home or place of business in a direct line with the main outside faucet. It is housed in a concrete box usually marked "water." Carefully remove 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

All customers within Meiners Oaks have their water use measured by a meter. This results in each customer paying their share of operating the system based on the amount of water used.
All Meiners Oaks meters measure water in cubic feet (one cubic foot equals about 7.5 gallons). Charges for the amount of water consumed are based on the number of units of 100 cubic feet ( 748 gallons) you use during a billing period.
There are two basic types of water meters -- the straight-reading meter that resembles an odometer in a car, and the round-reading meter that has several separate dials.

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Read these numbers


In the meter diagram to the left, the reading is taken from the figures shown above the words CUBIC FEET which is called the Odometer. The meter reads 23,500, which is the total number of cubic feet of water recorded since the meter was installed. Because our charge is based on units of 100 cubic feet, the meter reader discards the last two numbers (the ones with the black background). So, this reading would actually be 235 . So, when we read your bills the next time you have used 1,200 cubic feet of water, the new reading would be $24,700(23,500$ plus 1,200$)$. Again, we'd drop the last two numbers, and your official reading would be 247 . Your bill would be figured by subtracting the old number (235) from the new number (247). You would then be billed for 12 units

The large Sweep Hand on the dial measures water use in gallons or cubic feet and is used to detect if there is a leak present
The "Leak Detector" shown in the meter diagram above is useful in leak detection. Most meters have a sweep hand much like the second hand on a clock. Some meters also (or instead) have a small diamond or triangle set in the face of the meter. These are used as leak detectors because they turn if there is any movement of water through your meter. To check for a leak, turn off all water faucets and water-using appliances on your property, indoors and out. When you are done, look at your meter. If the sweep hand or the diamond/triangle is moving there is water passing through your meter. That means either you've forgotten to turn something off, or you have a leak on your side of the meter.

