

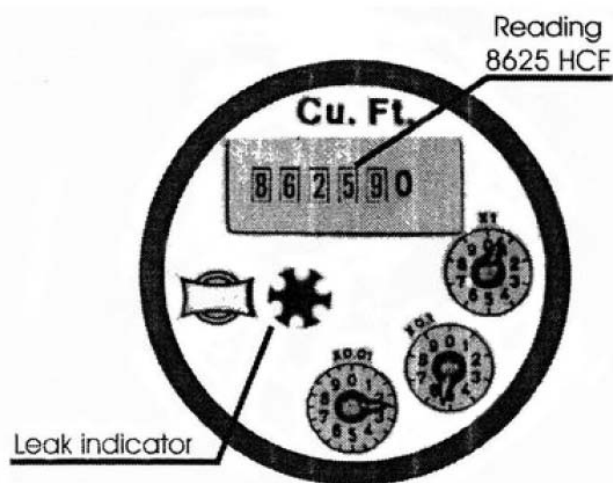
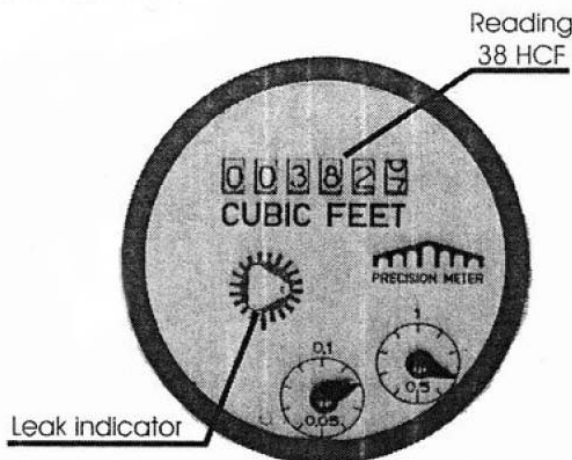


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How to Read Your Water Meter

There are several different types of residential water meters in use in Santa Clara. Residential water meters in the City of Santa Clara record water usage in cubic feet. Water usage is billed in multiples of 100 cubic feet called "units". A hundred cubic feet is often abbreviated as HCF and equals 748 gallons.

When reading any of these residential meters, the first two digits to the right are disregarded. If the actual reading is 3827, as in the first example below, the City meter reader records 38 HCF. If the current reading is 38 and last month's reading was 29 HCF, the customer's usage is 9 HCF (units) of water. Here are some typical meter dials with their recorded readings.



For more information on reading your particular style of meter, useful water saving information, or free water saving devices, call the City of Santa Clara Water Department at (408) 615-2000.

Using Your Water Meter To Detect A Leak

Your meter may have a leak indicator making it very easy to see if you have a water leak. Generally the leak indicator is a small dial or wheel, like the examples pictured at the left. If the wheel is turning, even when water is not being used, you have a leak.

If your water meter does not have a leak indicator you can still use your water meter to check your home for leaks. It only takes five easy steps.

1. Find your water meter.
 2. Make sure no water is running in the house or the yard.
 3. Read the meter and record the reading.
 4. After 15-20 minutes re-check the meter.
 5. If the reading has changed you have a leak.
- Divide the number of cubic feet by the elapsed time and you will know the rate; cubic feet per hour. Multiply the number of cubic feet per hour by 7.48 to get gallons per hour.

If you would like help with determining if there is a leak, call the City of Santa Clara Water Department at (408) 615-2000 for a free leak check appointment.

The city technician will perform the leak check as described above, but will not enter your property. It is the responsibility of the property owner to find and fix the leak, with the assistance of a plumber at the property owner's discretion.

Useful Information

cf = cubic foot

1 cf = 7.48 gallons

The "units" on your utility bill are 100 cf, which equals 748 gallons

Turning Off Your Water

If you need to turn off your water for repairs or because of a leak, turn it off at the shut off near your house. Do not turn it off at the meter. If your house does not have a shut off, call the Water Department and our technicians will turn off the water for you at no charge during regular business hours.