



How to Determine if You Have a Water Leak

Undetected leaks can be costly. If you think you may have a water leak, your water meter is your best detective to help you find it:

- Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances, such as the dish and clothes washers.
- Locate your water meter (see below) and lift the cover for the meter dial.
- Read & write down the entire reading (all numbers).
- Wait 30-60 minutes (without using any water) and check the reading again. If the reading has changed, you probably have a leak somewhere in your plumbing system.
- Most meters have a red "telltale" indicator. If you see it moving when all water is off, you probably have a leak.

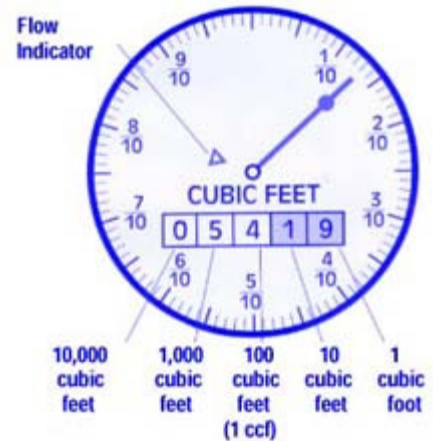
Locating Your Water Meter

Your water meter is either located inside, usually in your basement, crawl space, or utility room, or outside, in front of your house, inside a covered "pit" that is set flush to the ground.

Reading Your Water Meter

Reading your meter is like reading the odometer of a car:

- Read the numbers from left to right that appear under or over the words "Cubic Feet" (or "Gallons") as applicable.
- The first digit on the right represents one cubic foot or gallon. The second from the right represents 10 cubic feet, or 10 gallons. The third from the right (usually a different color) represents 100 cubic feet, or one "CCF" or 1,000 gallons (kgal).
- One revolution of the meter sweep-hand (the arm that goes around in a circle) equals one cubic foot or 7.48 gallons.
- Note that Aquarion Water billing is in 100 Cubic Feet, or 1 CCF. Therefore, 1 CCF = 748 gallons.



Looking For Leaks

- Your toilet may have a silent leak. Drop a little food coloring into the tank. Wait about 10 minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.
- Check for moist spots around and under the house plumbing and around outdoor plumbing.
- Replace worn washers in faucets and showerheads. Even a small drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water each day.

Leak on the property side

If a leak occurs on the property side of the meter, the property owner is responsible for the leak charges and repair costs. If you have checked for leaks and yet the dials are still turning, you may have a hidden leak in an underground pipe. Contact a reputable plumber for additional counsel and service. If you have purchased a water line protection plan such as Safety Valve or AAA's product, contact the service provider for service.

Shutting Off Your Water

If a water pipe broke in your home, could you find the shut off valve? Know where it's located before you have an emergency. There should be a valve near the house. Look in the following places:

- In the crawl space or basement, where the water line enters the home.
- In the garage where the water line enters the wall or ceiling, near the water heater or laundry hookup.
- Outside near the foundation, often protected by a concrete ring or clay pipe.