

How to Read Your Meter

1. To activate the meter shine a flashlight on the photoelectric eye. The screen will begin to flash between the “Reading” and “Rate” when activated.
2. The “Reading” is all the water that has passed through the meter in its lifetime and is measured in gallons. This is the reading used for billing purposes and charges are based on units of 1,000 gallons of water used. Be sure to look for the decimal point when reading the meter.
3. The “Rate” is the amount of water in gallons per minute that is passing through the meter at that moment. The “Rate” can be used for leak detection: if all water in the building and outside is shut off and a rate is observed this means that water is flowing through the meter. Since all water is shut off there must be a leak somewhere in your system.
4. There is also a “Leak Indicator Faucet” icon built into the meter, that will either be on solid or flashing, indicating that there has been a leak detected. The solid faucet indicates a continuous leak occurrence over the last 24 hrs. Check the last digit on your screen to see if it is increasing. If so, check your interior and exterior faucets, the valves in your toilets, and look around the exterior of your home for signs of surface water. The flashing faucet indicates an intermittent leak occurrence over the past 24 hrs. Check your interior and exterior faucets and the valves in your toilets to see if leakage is occurring.

How to Calculate Your Water Bill

Your water bill includes the following charges:

$$\text{Minimum Bill} + \text{Volume Charge} = \text{Total Water Charge} + \text{State Regulatory Fee} = \text{Total Bill Amount}$$

All customers pay the minimum bill, which does not include any amount of water usage. If you use more than 10,000 gallons, you'll pay an additional volume charge. To determine your bill, follow these steps:

1. Determining Your Minimum Bill

Use the table below to find your minimum bill based on your water meter connection size. The size of your meter can be found by opening the lid of the meter. The larger the meter size the higher the base rate. This is because larger connection sizes place a greater demand on the water system. Residential customers typically have a 5/8 X 3/4-inch connection. If you used 0 gallons of water, you will only pay the minimum bill amount for water. If you used more than 0 gallons, continue to step 2.

Example: 5/8 x 3/4 meter, 0 usage (minimum bill) = \$30.00

Effective March 1, 2016

<u>Base Rate (0 gallons)</u>		<u>Water Usage Rates (per 1,000 gallons)</u>	
5/8 x 3/4 Meter	\$30.00	1 - 10,000	\$4.00
1" Meter	\$75.00	10,001 to 20,000	\$5.00
1 1/2" Meter	\$150.00	20,001 to 40,000	\$6.00
2" Meter	\$240.00	40,001 to 60,000	\$7.00
		60,001 to 80,000	\$8.00
		80,001 to 100,000	\$9.00
		100,001 and over	\$10.00
		Regulatory Fee (State Assessment)	0.50%

2. Determining How Much Water You've Used

This is listed on your bill under units, which is represented in gallons.

Example: 4204 units = 4,204 gallons

If you would like an estimate of what your water bill is going to be, take the current reading minus the previous reading.

For example:

Initial reading collected on 4/1/2013: 005234.12 gallons

Second reading collected on 5/1/2013: 009438.23 gallons

$$9,438.23 \text{ gallons} - 5,234.12 \text{ gallons} = 4,204.11 \text{ gallons}$$

This calculates to be 4,204.11 gallons used during this period.

Note that for billing purposes the amount of water used in gallons is rounded down to the nearest 10 gallons, so 4,204.11 gallons becomes 4,200 gallons billed.

❖ Calculating the Volume Charge

Continuing from the example above, to calculate the volume charge take the gallons used divided by 1,000. Take that number and multiply it by \$4.00.

For example:

$$4,200 \text{ gallons} / 1,000 = 4.2 \times \$4.00 = \$16.80 \text{ (volume charge)}$$

❖ Adding the Volume Charge to the Minimum Bill

This is the total for your water charge. Continuing from the examples above:

$$\$30.00 \text{ (minimum bill)} + \$16.80 \text{ (volume charge)} = \$46.80 \text{ (total water charge)}$$

❖ Calculating the Regulatory Fee (State Assessment)

This fee is for water and wastewater utilities and FWSC is required to collect a monthly regulatory assessment fee from all retail customers. These fees were first authorized in 1993 to finance state regulatory programs. Investor-owned utilities, water districts, water supply corporations, and certain counties are required to collect the assessment from retail customers and send the amount collected to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Continuing from the example above:

$$\$46.80 \text{ (total water charge)} * 0.5\% = \$0.23$$

❖ Adding the Regulatory Fee to the Total Water Charge

This is now your total water bill that is due. Continuing from the example above:

$$\$0.23 + \$46.80 = \$47.03 \text{ (total water bill)}$$