

Water Department

How much water does your household use?

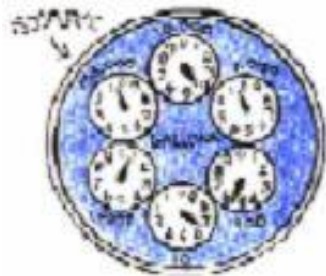
It's easy to find out. Simply read your water meter or review your water bill. Your water meter is the key to figuring out how much water your household uses in a day, week or month. It will also help you measure the impact of any water saving measures you implement.

Reading your meter

A **digital meter** reads like a car odometer; this one measures in cubic feet. The last two digits to the right actually indicates "tenths" of cubic feet whereas the dial measures single cubic feet. Therefore, the actual reading on this digital meter is **37,912.2 cubic feet**.



A **dial meter** looks more complicated, but it's actually very simple; this one measures in gallons. The set of dials must be read, as shown, starting with the dial that measures hundreds of thousands (or millions) of gallons. If the hand is between 2 numbers, record the lowest one. This meter reads **40,560 gallons**.



Where is your meter?

Your meter is probably located in the corner of your basement, on an outside wall of your house or somewhere on your street. The face should resemble one of the two types pictured. Meters measure in either cubic feet or gallons. (It should be clearly indicated) To convert cubic feet to gallons, multiply by 7.48.

Example: 3 cubic ft. x 7.48 = 22.44 gallons

Using your meter to check for leaks

Take a reading on your water meter. Wait an hour, making sure that no one in your home uses any water. Check it again. If the reading has changed, you have at least one leak.

Investigate!

Water/Sewer Rates

The Board of Selectmen adopted new water and sewer rates and charges to fund this year's water and sewer budgets. A two-tier increasing block rate structure was again adopted for both water and sewer use. The changes are as follows:

Usage	Old Rates (FY2009)		New Rates (FY2010)	
	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer
1 – 20 units	\$3.39	\$4.96	\$3.80	\$5.83
20+ units	\$4.96	\$7.07	\$5.55	\$8.22
Irrigation meters	\$4.96	N/A	\$5.55	N/A

Usage is measured by billing cycle or every three months.
 One unit = 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons

Multi-family dwellings and commercial condominiums remain indexed so that rates are applied on a “per unit” basis. For example, a 3-unit dwelling would pay the lower rate for 0 – 60 HCF; and the higher rate over 60 HCF.

There is a slight increase in the fire protection charges for fire sprinkler systems; the rate for testing backflow prevention devices remains the same as last year.

All rates are effective August 1, 2009.

If you have any questions about your water bill, please call the Water Department at 978-688-9570.