



Understanding Your Water Meter

Reading your own water meter will allow you to check your water consumption, detect leaks, and learn which of your appliances and fixtures use excessive water. You can use this information to help you conserve water and money.

How to Read Your Meter

Your water meter is located in the ground, usually at the front of the property, inside a rectangular box with a heavy lid. To read your meter, you will need to lift the lid, and the lift-cap on the dial if applicable to your meter. Clean the dial with window cleaner if it's difficult to read. Most meters in our area are of the type illustrated below.

Look for a small red triangle at the center of the meter. If the triangle is moving (or if there is no triangle but the sweep hand is moving), water is being used in the house.



Your water meter reads like a car's odometer, but with a permanent zero in the gallon place. Single gallons are counted by the red sweep hand. A complete revolution of this hand is 10 gallons and causes the register to move.

In the illustration, the sweep hand is on 3.5, so plug this figure into the gallons place to read 96873.5 gallons. The UC rates are based on 1,000 gallons.

Leaks Waste Water

Please note—if the red triangle on your meter continues to turn when all water-using appliances (including the water heater, ice makers, and water softeners) are off or when your master supply valve is off, you have a leak.

Faucets

Check all faucets and showerheads for leaks. If your showerhead is leaking, make sure it is screwed tightly and check the washer for wear. Repair leaking faucets by replacing washers and by tightening or repacking the faucet stem.

Also check all outside faucets or spigots. Use hose washers between spigots and water hoses to eliminate leaks. Replace or repair damaged or leaking hoses, nozzles, spigots and connectors.

Toilets

Many toilet leaks are obvious because the toilet runs, makes noise, or you can see movement in the toilet bowl between flushes. To test for a silent leak, drop a little food coloring into the tank (or use the leak detector tablets from the UC Water-Saving Kit). If you see food coloring in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak.

The rubber flush valve or "flapper" decomposes over time. If black residue comes off when you touch the flapper, or it looks warped or disfigured, it's time to replace it.

Other leaks

Malfunctioning water softeners, automatically filling swimming pools, water heaters and faulty irrigation valves are other areas where you might have a leak. If no obvious locations have leaks, and the red triangle is still moving, you may have an underground leak, foundation leak, or leak behind a wall and should call a plumber.

The UC wants to help you save water

Free Low-Flow Showerhead & Water-Saving Kit from the UC

If you are a UC water customer, you can bring your old 2.5 gpm (or greater) showerhead to the UC and get a water-saving kit featuring a 1.25 gpm low-flow massaging showerhead for free! The kit also contains:

- A 1.5 gpm dual-spray kitchen faucet aerator
- Two 1 gpm bathroom faucet aerators
- A toilet fill cycle diverter
- A flow meter bag
- Two leak detection tablets
- Water conservation tip wheel

Rain Barrels Help Save on Irrigation Costs

Another useful tool to help you save water is a rain barrel. The UC offers discounted rain barrels to water customers. The barrels are made locally by Recycle the Rain from repurposed plastic food-grade barrels. Available by visiting Customer Service, the barrels cost \$50, with the UC paying the remaining \$30. For more information, visit www.ucnsb.org/conservation-water.aspx.

Landscape with Waterwise Plants

The UC teamed up with Lindley's Nursery and Garden Center to create a demonstration garden in the UC parking lot. Here you will find great ideas for native and waterwise plants that will add to your garden without wasting water.

Estimate how much water your home uses with the Home Water Use Survey on the reverse side.

"Connecting you with the quality of a New Smyrna Beach life."

Home Water Use Survey

Showers	Number of showers	Number of minutes	Gallons per minute	Gallons used
	X		2.5 (low flow)	=
	X		8 (high flow)	=

If your house was built since Jan. 1, 1984, or is retrofitted, use the low flow number.

Baths	Number in family	Number of baths	Gallons per bath	Gallons used
	X		12 (1/3 tub)	=
	X		36 (full tub)	=
X		70 (garden tub)	=	

Determine which listing accurately describes the type of tub used in your house.

Toilet flushes	Number in family	Flushes per day	Gallons per flush	Gallons used
	X		1.6 (low flow)	=
	X		4 (high flow)	=

If your house was built since Jan. 1, 1984, or is retrofitted, use the low flow number. The average number of flushes is per person per day is 4.

Hand washing	Number of times	Minutes per time	Gallons per minute	Gallons used
	X		1.5 (low flow)	=
	X		2.5 (high flow)	=

Check for the flow number on the rim of the faucet aerator.

Doing dishes	Times washed	Minutes water runs	Gallons per minute	Gallons used
	X		2.2 (low flow)	=
	X		2.5 (high flow)	=

Check for the flow number on the rim of the faucet aerator.

Dishwasher	Uses per week	Days per week	Gallons per load	Gallons used
	÷		X 6.5 (low flow)	=
	÷		X 11 (high flow)	=

Check the listing for "normal load" in your owner's manual to determine if your dishwasher is a high-flow or low-flow model.

Clothes washer	Uses per week	Days per week	Gallons per load	Gallons used
	÷		X 18 (low flow)	=
	÷		X 40 (high flow)	=

Check the owner's manual for the wash cycle you typically use. Information is also available through Energy Star: www.energystar.gov (see the Products listing).

Lawn	Days watered	Minutes per use	Gallons per minute	Gallons used
	X		X 30	=

This calculation is based on using a garden hose and is an average flow.

Other	Other indoor uses	Gallons used
	Other outdoor uses	Gallons used

List other ways you use water, such as preparing food, etc. Estimate the number of gallons used.

Water Use Totals

Total daily indoor water use: _____

Total daily outdoor water use: _____
 Divide the Gallons Used on your Lawn by 7 and add your Other Outdoor Uses to get this number.

Total daily family water use: _____
 To get this number, add the indoor daily and outdoor daily totals above.

Water Saving Tips

The UC Water Saving Kit will help you reduce your water consumption in many areas of your home, including your shower, toilet, kitchen faucet, and bathroom faucet. See the reverse side for more information.

Other ways to save...
 In the bathroom

- A full tub typically holds 36 gallons. By filling the tub one-third full, you can save up to 24 gallons per bath.
- Most family members brush their teeth two times per day for an average of two minutes. Save water by turning off the faucet when brushing.
- The best way to improve toilet efficiency is to replace an old toilet with a new toilet. Toilets made before 1993 use about 4 gallons per flush. New, high-efficiency toilets use 1.6 gpf or less.
- If you are unable to replace your toilet, you can help your toilet use less water per flush by putting a plastic bottle full of water in your toilet tank. Add an inch or two of sand or pebbles inside the bottle to weigh it down, then fill the bottle with water, screw the lid on, and put it in your toilet tank safely away from the operating mechanisms.

Outdoors

- Save water in your pool by installing a cover and ensuring you have no leaks. Placing a cover over your pool will help reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation while also increasing pool safety.